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Corneli Primary pupils proved themselves to be hot-shot car designers. SEE THE FULL STORY ON PAGE 11

LABOUR GROUP DECIDES TO FREEZE COUNCIL TAX

THE Labour-controlled Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has opted for a council tax freeze.

Rates for the next 12 months will remain set at last year's levels after the BCBC cabinet agreed to a zero per cent increase.

The budget will, of course, have to be passed by a meeting of the full council.

Describing it as a "sensible, sustainable budget designed to protect the most vulnerable members of our community," Council Leader Mel Nott pointed to a number of areas where the authority will be investing money in services aimed at both younger and older residents. These include:

• £650,000 for services to help children and young people.

• £520,000 for services aimed at older residents and people with disabilities.

• £200,000 for improvements to street furniture, traffic signals, signs and street lights.

Coun Nott said: "This budget has been delivered in particularly difficult circumstances, but the fact that we have been able to freeze council tax while ensuring that important front-line services remain protected is especially good news for residents.

"Much of the reason why we are in a position to freeze the council tax for 2012-13 is as a direct consequence of our prudent approach to managing the authority's finances over the last four years.

"Effective budget monitoring has played a crucial role in this process, as have the efforts of our staff in looking for new ways to deliver services and efficiency savings, and I'd like to thank them for their hard work and commitment."

He continued: "There have been a number of difficult and costly issues to contend with, such as an increase in the number of children who are being looked after by the authority, and we are also preparing for increased future pressure on services offering support with homelessness and housing benefit, as a result of the Government's welfare reform changes.

"We have again given a priority to areas such as education and social services, and I am particularly pleased that in addition to our own budgetary spend on local highways, the Welsh Government will also be making nearly £7m available to the authority over the next three years which will be used to make further improvements to the highways infrastructure."

The Welsh Conservative Regional AM Suzy Davies had this to say: "I welcome news that BCBC is to freeze council tax this year which is the policy of the Conservatives in both Cardiff and London."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)

Prisoner's first day of freedom ends with a 'glassing' attack

by AJ SICLUNA

AN INNOCENT man was the victim of an unprovoked attack in the centre of Bridgend, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

A witness described it as the worst incident of violence he had seen, said prosecutor James Wilson.

Benjamin Grimstead, 20, of no fixed address, admitted wounding Jason Blower with intent to do him grievous bodily harm.

He was given a six-year extended sentence involving four years custody. After his release, he will be on licence for four years.

Judge Niclas Parry said: "There was a significant degree of premeditation and the use of a weapon."

He said Grimstead had an unfounded grudge against Mr Blower.

"From the moment you saw him, you decided to attack him, and you thrust a bottle deliberately into his face.

"When he pleaded with you, you repeated the action. He escaped into nearby premises but you attacked him again."

Added the judge "Your intention was to cause him as much physical harm as you could, and members of the public were utterly shocked by what you did."

He described Grimstead as being of significant risk of causing the public serious harm.

Mr Wilson said the attack occurred in the centre of Bridgend at about 11.15pm on November 7.

For no reason, Grimstead began shouting and smashed a beer bottle, exposing its jagged edge.

He used it to strike downwards towards Mr Blower's left eye. Mr Blower shouted: "Get away, get away," and ran into a taxi office pursued by Grimstead, who then punched and kicked him to the head.

After that, said Mr Wilson, the defendant calmly walked away.

A passer-by asked him what happened and Grimstead replied: "I glassed him. He tried to sell smack," – which was entirely wrong, said Mr Wilson.

Mr Blower suffered cuts which required 20 stitches.

Grimstead was said to have convictions for 40 offences, including assaulting the police, and causing actual bodily harm.

His counsel Hugh Wallace, said: "He wrongly believed this man was supplying drugs. I have to accept it was a very unpleasant attack.

"He had come out of prison that day and was celebrating. He realises now that what he did was appalling."

(SEE MORE COURT REPORTS ON PAGE 11)

£2.2 million for Bridgend regeneration

BRIDGEND town centre is set for a major overhaul, with the pedestrianised area earmarked for a complete re-paving.

The scheme is part of a £10 million programme of work, aimed at regenerating the town centre.

For more details, see story on page 11.

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Pupils are sent home

PUPILS have been sent home from a local secondary school after copper piping was stolen from the central heating system.

Ysgol Gyfun Llanhari was forced to close after the overnight theft of the piping led to extensive flood damage. The school hopes to reopen today (Thursday).

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The challenge facing NATO in an age of cyber warfare

WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON writes an exclusive column from Westminster for The GEM.

THE North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) began life in 1949 in the aftermath of World War II, when 10 member states created an alliance of mutual assistance to counter the risk of a land invasion by the Soviet Union by working together and pooling resources.

It was described as a collective, defensive umbrella, but once the Cold War ended, questions were raised about whether NATO was still relevant.

One Secretary General countered this by saying: "Now that the Cold War is over, we are faced not with a single all-embracing threat but with a multitude of risks and challenges."

When you look at what NATO is involved in today, its relevance remains clear; support for peace building operations in Kosovo (and previously elsewhere in the Balkans), operations in Afghanistan, Libya and against piracy in the Gulf of Aden.

It prioritises terrorism, cyber security, countering the proliferation of nuclear weapons and securing borders.

NATO now has 28 members, including many eastern European states. Of the 28 members, 21 are also members of the European Union. I am one of the 18 representatives of the two Houses of the British Parliament on the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

In addition to the 28, there are 14 states which are associate members, including South Korea, Russia and Pakistan.

The NATO PA has a number of sub committees with individual focus and responsibilities.

I am a member of the Defence and Security Committee; other committees include the Civil Dimensions of Security, Economic Dimensions of Security, the Political Committee, and finally the Science and Technology Committee.

As the committee titles suggest, the NATO PA meets to discuss political, security and economic matters. We are briefed by senior government officials, advisors and experts; a forum for dialogue, debate and making recommendations.

One of the most valuable aspects of the job is the opportunity to hear how issues and problems are perceived in other countries within the alliance. We face so many common problems and concerns but find a myriad of solutions.

It's a healthy dose of reality to find that not everyone thinks as we do as a country and to see how our decisions are perceived elsewhere.

I have had a busy NATO agenda during late January and early February. Weekend and parliamentary recess days have been spent in discussions about smart defence, piracy and the US new defence focus on the Pacific.

Smart defence looks at how in a time of recession more can be achieved with the money available. Over the past year, 15 members of NATO have cut their spending on defence while 18 members spend less than in 2008.

Across NATO, cuts have been made to equipment, training, personnel, pay and conditions. As less is spent on the modernisation of equipment a bow wave of obsolescence builds up.

The Libya campaign showed the heavy reliance we have in NATO on the US for air-to-air refuelling, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft and drones.

The Libya campaign could not have taken place without the US involvement and support. Moving from uncoordinated defence spending across the NATO alliance with over capacity in some areas and gaps in others is a big task.

A second major task is the harmonisation of systems and skills so that inter operability is possible.

Despite the alliance existing for more than 60 years, a culture of isolation in defence spending persists.

With the US planning to cut $1trillion from its defence budget over the next 10 years and move its focus to the Pacific, it is time for NATO allies to examine a new future.

Part of the reason for this new focus is concern regarding the military rise of China, an issue which is also of vital importance to the rest of NATO. China (like Russia) has a new submarine fleet which can stay submerged longer and operate quietly.

A new Chinese fighter jet, the J20, could pose a risk to military bases while their new missile can strike a moving ship 1,700 miles away.

As cyber warfare moves up the defence agenda, anxiety has been generated by the Chinese demonstrating the capability to shoot down an old weather satellite. The rise of China and India both economically and militarily has changed the balance of power.

Few NATO meetings fail to address the rise of piracy in the Horn of Africa. This is a complex issue made more complicated by the tensions with Iran and its threats to mine the Straits of Hormuz in response to threats of increased sanction over its nuclear programme. Twenty percent of the world's oil and 20,000 vessels travel through this most important shipping route a year with piracy adding increased costs.

Maritime trade is expected to grow by 50 per cent over the next ten years but NATO naval power is expected to decrease by a further 30 per cent. Piracy is a growing problem across the Indian Ocean and off West Africa.

How NATO members deal with this growing problem impacts on the price of goods in our shops, stability in troubled regions and the growth of extremist movements.

In an increasingly global world, NATO brings together nations to share problems and solutions.

We don't always agree on the ways forward but while we are talking together and listening to each other's ideas progress is made.

I wanted to use this article to give just a taste of the work of NATO and its vital role in our security. If you would like to learn more go to: www.nato-pa.int.

Kittens with the super-sized paws!

Photo by Mandy Thomas at www.mandythomas photography.co.uk

THEY may appear to be all fingers and thumbs but Donald and Daisy are delightful kittens in search of a new home.

Known as polydactyl cats, Donald and Daisy have an additional toe on each foot, making a total of 22 toes each rather than the normal amount of 18.

The kittens are currently being looked after by Cats Protection Bridgend Adoption Centre. They were admitted after being found straying with their mum in very poor condition and suffering with cat flu - it has taken a few weeks of TLC to nurse them back to full health.

Sue Dobbs explains: "Donald and Daisy are very special kittens in every way so we're looking for someone special who will give them the love they deserve. Although they look a little unusual, the extra toes do not affect their health in any way and we know they will make someone perfect companion."

Although not common, polydactyl cats can be found across the UK. It is a genetic condition that, in the majority of cases, causes no harm to the cat whatsoever, according to Cats Protection. Some polydactyl cats have just one extra toe on each paw but some can have two or even three extra on each foot. If a polydactyl cat has kittens, there is a good chance some of her kittens will also have the condition.

"There is a legend among sailors that polydactyl cats used to be ship's cats and the extra toes helped them climb the rigging," said Nicola Jones, deputy manager, "It's a nice story, but these cats do not have a greater climbing ability. It's neither an advantage nor a disadvantage – just an unusual quirk of nature."

If you can offer Donald and Daisy or one of the other 120 cats in the centre a new home, please call the Bridgend Adoption Centre on 01656 726621 or email: bridgend@cats.org.uk .

QUIZ LEAGUE LATEST NEWS

THERE were slightly lower scores this week, in what seemed to some a pretty tough quiz.

Llangewydd Arms managed 48 to Mackworth Arms' 39, and Tyrisha Nomads got 41 to Six Bells' 35.

The aggregates in the other first division games were well down; Oldcastle 'A' beat Cabo Roche 37-22 and Tyrisha Royals made a surprisingly low 28 against Laleston Inn 'A', who won with 33.

In Division Two, who get slightly easier questions, Tondu Railway Club had a 51-47 victory against Greenmeadow, and Pyle RFC did well to record their second league victory of the season, against Laleston Inn 'B' by 42 points to 39.

The remaining two matches were close affairs. Oldcastle 'B' won 35-33 at Pheasant Gamekeepers and Pheasant Poachers got home by a 'short head' away to Coychurch Wanderers; score 32-31.

Here are your four-for-thought:

1) Which form of word puzzle is also the name of a fictional detective?
2) Which famous building celebrated its 900th anniversary in 1965?
3) What is the nationality of the current Wimbledon ladies' singles champion Petra Kvitova?
4) The name of which South American capital city is said to have taken its name from the Portuguese for "I saw a Mount"?

A Rudge (for Quiz League)

1) Rebus
2) Westminster Abbey
3) Czech
4) Montevideo

Daredevil S4C TV presenter to address business forum

FOLLOWING the success of last year's St David's Day business breakfast, with more than 80 business people attending, the Bridgend Business Forum has a real treat in store for this year's annual event.

PICTURED: Lowri Morgan, S4C presenter

The St David's Day business breakfast 2012 is to be held at the Vale Resort Hotel, Hensol and is being organised in partnership with Rhondda-Cynon-Taf (RCT) Business Club and will feature a key note speech from S4C's intrepid television presenter Lowri Morgan.

The Swansea-born presenter has earned an impressive reputation, having completed a number of tough challenges including diving in a submersible to see the Titanic (one of only 80 people ever to do so) and completing the Jungle Ultra Marathon in the Amazon, as featured in the S4C and POP1 television series 'Ras yn Erbyn Amser' (Race Against Time) which she also produced.

Lowri pushed her boundaries once again as she prepared for the 6633 Ultra Marathon - one of the toughest challenges on the planet. In the freezing Arctic setting, competitors strive to complete the 350-mile endurance event in only eight days, pulling 50 pounds worth of equipment on a sledge along the course.

Lowri will be looking back on her experiences as a TV presenter and all round 'action-woman' at this event which will offer Bridgend Business Forum and RCT Business Club members an excellent opportunity to network, entertain clients and colleagues and celebrate St David's Day with a traditional, hearty full Welsh breakfast.

Coun David Sage, deputy leader of Bridgend County Borough Council said: "We are delighted to welcome Lowri Morgan as a guest speaker at our St David's Day breakfast. I have read her biography and can see that she is a very inspirational person and will certainly have an interesting story to tell."

For more information contact Mary Pope on (01656) 815320 email: mary.pope@bridgend.gov.uk or visit: www.bridgendbusinessforum.co.uk

Co-op asks local charities to come forward for aid

THE Co-operative has announced it has £35,000 up for grabs for community groups and charities in the south Wales area thanks to the generosity of its customers over the last year.

The Co-operative's Community Fund is raised by member customers opting to donate all or part of their annual dividend to good causes. The latest calculations reveal that £35,000 of the total raised in Wales, which is more than £100,000, is available for distribution in the south Wales area during the first half of the year.

Ailsa Logan, the membership officer for The Co-operative, said: "The local area committee allocates grants from £200 to £2,000 every two months and we would welcome applications from any group that would benefit from a boost over the next six months."

Further funds will be available during the second half of the year when a further calculation of funds raised via dividend donations is carried out.

Community fund application forms are available online at www.co-operative.coop/communityfund or by phoning 0844 262 4001. Awards are allocated by local Co-operative members' committees, based on a set of values and principles such as social responsibility and caring for others.

Community feedback

EWENNY Community Council and Creative Rural Communities will hold a public consultation "Regenerating Ewenny And Corntown Together" at 7pm in the Golden Mile Inn, on Monday, February 27.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MARCH 1)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
23 Thur	07.17	9.9	19.33	9.6
24 Fri	07.52	9.9	20.04	9.7
25 Sat	08.22	9.7	20.36	9.5
26 Sun	08.53	9.4	21.07	9.2
27 Mon	09.23	9.1	21.34	8.8
28 Tues	09.55	8.6	22.05	8.4
29 Wed	10.27	8.1	22.44	7.9
01 Thur	11.11	7.6	23.42	7.4

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

E-Mail Contacts: *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk* • *gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk* • Tel 01446 774484
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New Lions club is growing fast

Photo by John Cosson. Left to right: Vance Rees, Tricia Jones, president Joan Cosson, Laurence Pearce, Michelle Owens and Gloria Ward).

FOR more than a year, Porthcawl Lions have been active in helping to set up a branch club in Port Talbot.

Members were pleased when, at their last business meeting, Porthcawl club president Joan Cosson inaugurated two new members into the Port Talbot branch.

Tricia Jones and Michelle Owens were presented with their Lions' pins by their sponsors Vance Rees and Gloria Ward, and then received their certificates from Joan.

The occasion was made more significant by the presence of the District Governor, Laurence Pearce, who is also a member of the Porthcawl club.

The Port Talbot branch now has four members and one prospective member, but is active and hoping to grow rapidly. To know more about either club, or to help with their charity work and make new friends, contact Don on 01656 788583. **JC**

LOCAL CO-OP BACKS CHARITY PROJECTS

THE Co-operative food store in Porthcawl will become a honey pot for fundraising this year, as a new charity partnership is announced with Oxfam Cymru and Dolen Cymru.

Left to right: Shan Francis, Teri Ward, Lynne Williams and Lewis Pearce from he Co-operative food store in Porthcawl.

Store staff and representatives from the charities marked the launch of the year-long project by gathering around a giant honey pot, reflecting one of the main projects that will be supported with cash raised by The Co-operative.

The Co-operative's entire family of businesses in Wales, including food, funeralcare, pharmacy, and financial services, are aiming to raise at least £50,000 for the charities. Oxfam Cymru will use the donation to support the expansion of honey-making co-operatives in poor communities in Ethiopia, and will also fund a food-growing co-operative in Newport, south Wales.

Dolen Cymru will put its share of the donation towards a fruit tree planting project in Lesotho, which enables disabled people and people affected by HIV/AIDS to run an orchard, eat healthily and sell the surplus.

Mark Jones, the store manager in Porthcawl, said: "We have a great team spirit in the store and we enjoy the challenge of fundraising."

REFLEXOLOGY, THEN CAKE AND FLAPJACKS!

BRACKLA/ BRIDGEND WI

MEMBERS began the February meeting by singing happy birthday to Elsie Stephens, a long serving and active committee member.

It was then on to business; members enjoyed a meal at the Golden Mile in Corntown on February 8, and praised the staff and thoughtfulness of the bus driver from OTED.

Forthcoming events were discussed with members looking forward to the link get together in Pencoed in March, plus a trip to Dewstow Gardens in June.

It was then time to relax with Bronwyn Allen, who gave an insight into reflexology and demonstrated on Gaynor Coombs, while relaxing music played in the background and other members enjoyed a foot soak.

Pauline thanked Bronwyn and this was followed with cake and flapjacks provided by hostesses for the evening, Pauline Long and Theresa Bufton.

We are all looking forward to March 15, when we will be entertained by the junior Welsh choir, starting at the earlier time of 7pm in the Nolton Church Hall.

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AM's Newton surgery

WELSH Conservative Regional AM Suzy Davies is holding a surgery at the Old School Room, Newton Green, Porthcawl today, Thursday February 23, at 5.30pm. All are welcome.

Invite to join local model club

COYCHURCH Models Group meets on the second Sunday of each month, except August and December, at 2pm in the John Williams Memorial Hall, Main Street, Coychurch, Bridgend.

Members are welcome anywhere from Port Talbot to Cardiff.

Although open to all types of models there is a strong interest in model railways of all gauges.

Come along for a chat, a cup of char or coffee, and a chance to show off your models or seek advice on problems associated with model aircraft, railways (all scales and gauges), cars or boats.

War gamers are also welcome.

For further details please contact Bernard Honeysett on 01446 736033.

"Education, the best investment for the future"

PORTHCAWL has a tradition of excellence in sixth form education. The school offers a wide range of courses that are delivered by experienced, specialist teachers. The school is part of the Bridgend 16-19 partnership and this means students at Porthcawl may access courses from across the County Borough. At Porthcawl excellent standards of tuition are supplemented by first class accommodation and the very latest resources which allow students to develop their talents to the full. A major strength of the school is its attention to student wellbeing.

The school has an experienced pastoral team who deliver the highest standards of pastoral care. Porthcawl students are known by their teachers and the consequent high levels of pastoral care and support are a strong feature of the school. The majority of Porthcawl students go on to further or higher education. The school has developed a specialist role to assist its students with their university applications and this has helped many gain places at the best institutions in the country. Finally, the school is far more than an "examination factory".

Our Year 12 and 13 students enjoy a wide range of extra curricular activities and play a full and vibrant role in our community. Many young people choose to join the school for their post 16 studies. These students who join the school settle quickly and take full advantage of all that is available to them.

School band is aiming high!

LEFT (clockwise from top left): Matthew Preddy, Kyle Reid, Mathew Jones and Peter McDermott.

A YOUNG Bridgend band has a big day ahead in March after making the regional finals of a national competition.

The boys, all aged 16 and students at Brynteg Comprehensive School, recently changed their name to 'Approaching Danger' (they were previously known as Breakout).

They have made it to the Cardiff auditions for 'Live and Unsigned', a national talent search for unsigned bands on March 18 at the Coal Exchange.

The band are Peter McDermott (guitar and vocals), Mathew Jones (guitar), Matthew Preddy (drums), and Kyle Reid (bass).

The band recently won the Bridgend youth show and were runners up in 'Bridgend's Got Talent'.

The band's publicist, Jess Jones, told The GEM: "Although the boys have been playing paid gigs, they work hard for local charity causes, and have presented KPC youth with a cheque for £423.

"In addition, they have helped raise nearly £300 for Bridgend Disabled Football Club."

In Cardiff, 'Approaching Danger' will be competing against the most talented bands and artists in the country at the Regional Final Showcase of Live and Unsigned 2012 – all in a bid to make the Grand Final at The O2 arena!

The best acts will also get the opportunity to play at some of the biggest festivals in the UK, including Beach Break Live, Boardmasters, Bearded Theory, Strawberry Fields and Osfest.

This year's competition also offers acts an extra chance for exposure as it's being filmed for Sky TV in an exclusive fly-on-the-wall documentary.

Concert raises money for HCPT

The Kenfig Hill and District Male Choir with their MD Philip Juliff and accompanists Andrew Chinnock and Beryl Evans.

THE Kenfig Hill Male Choir, with soloists from Trinity College of Music, London, gave a concert in All Saints Church, Porthcawl, in support of the Handicap Children's Pilgrimage Trust (HCPT) Group 55.

Funds are being raised so that the trust can go on its annual pilgrimage to Lourdes, as they have been doing for the past 41 years.

There was a good turnout for the evening with 140 people attending.

The compère was Nigel Lewis-Davidson. He welcomed and introduced the Kenfig Hill and District Male Choir with their MD, Philip Juliff, and accompanists Andrew Chinnock and Beryl Evans.

The soloists, all of whom were students currently studying at the prestigious Trinity College of Music, London, were Georgia Mae Bishop, Sophie English, Madelaine Jones and Stephan Ulberini.

At the conclusion of the concert, Nigel thanked the Rector Rev Canon Philip Masson for the use of All Saints Church.

Finally, and on behalf of HCPT Group 55, he extended a special thank you to Veronica Atkins and Julia Gilbertson, who have both retired after 25 years of service each.

The soloists from left to right: Georgia Mae Bishop, mezzo soprano; Stephan Ulberini, tenor; Sophie English, cello; Madelaine Jones, piano. (PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEITH E MORGAN)

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NAVIGATION CHALLENGE IS A TEST!

Maesteg cadets go into the Afan Argoed woods

MAESTEG Air Cadets spent a sunny day in the forest recently taking part in the Afan Argoed Challenge.

The challenge was open to teams from Air Training Corps Squadrons in No 3 Wing ATC, competing for a trophy donated by Sqn Ldr (ret'd) John Williams, who is a former Staff Officer and Squadron Commander in the wing.

The teams came from as far apart as Aberystwyth and Cowbridge, and the challenge consisted of a nine-kilometre navigation around the forest in Afan Argoed, with tasks at a number of checkpoints. Tasks included expedition knowledge, weather, outdoor knowledge, first aid, navigation, map and compass questions, questions on aircraft recognition, map symbols and brain teasers.

The team from 631 (Maesteg) Squadron was Corporals Scott and Dan Mably, Corporal Alex Hart and Cadets Carys Evans and David Lakin. Two of the staff from 631 Squadron, Pilot Officer Chris Hart and Civilian Instructor John Finch, helped man the checkpoints.

631 Squadron meet at Upper Street Maesteg and welcome boys and girls aged 13 and over.

Left to right, Corporal Scott Mably, Cadet Carys Evans, Corporal Dan Mably, Corporal Alex Hart and Cadet David Lakin.

BRIDGE IN BRIDGEND

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent evenings are as follows: Wednesday February 15: First, Mike Best and Liam Sheridan; joint second, Bill Turner and Marjorie Morris, Mel Humphries and Glyn Williams, David Newman and Geoff Barnes.

Friday, February 17: First, Muriel Muslin and Bill Turner; second, Barrie Waite and Terry Davies; third, Mary Moore and Tony Disley.

In addition to the regular club nights on Wednesday and Friday evenings at 7pm at Nolton Church Hall, there are lessons for beginners on Fridays at 7.30pm with Graham Jones, and for improvers on Wednesdays at 2.30pm with John Beard.

All are welcome, or contact: John Beard on 01446 771445 or David Newman on 01656 649138.

MAESTEG SURGERY

WELSH Lib-Dem AM for South Wales West, Peter Black, will be holding an advice surgery tomorrow (February 24), in Maesteg Library from 2pm-3pm.

MP calls for 'activities' Act to be preserved

MADELEINE MOON MP has called for the Adventure Activities Licensing Act to be saved following proposals by the Government to replace it with a voluntary code of practice.

The Act was passed in 1995 following the tragic death of four teenagers in the Lyme Bay canoeing tragedy in March 1993.

The Coalition Government has proposed repealing the Act and replacing it with a voluntary code of practice.

Mrs Moon said: "This Act responded to a desperate need to ensure measures were in place to allow children and young people to enjoy adventure activities safely.

"I firmly believe that licensing is necessary to protect lives and that the removal of this legislation would be a retrograde step.

"A petition has been launched on the Downing Street website with the aim of getting 100,000 signatures. It is hoped that this would get the Government to rethink its position and would force a debate in the House of Commons."

She added: "I would encourage everyone to consider signing the petition at: http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/24819."

The time to make a will is right now!

SOUTHERNDOWN WI

ONE wonders if, in our latter years, we are increasingly affected by such emotions as retribution, generosity, love, meanness, a whole gamut of personal good or ill feelings towards our nearest and dearest.

Phillip Davies, a retired solicitor, has experience of will making but has extended this knowledge further afield – as contained in his talk, 'Weird wills'.

We were urged to make a will' it's never too early, when of sound mind. Think carefully, listen to advice, even if not heeded and prepare to revise or change a will every four-five years.

Human characteristics can change at a whim. Wills – weird or not – should be written on paper, can be long (95,000 words..) or short (everything to wife); also think hard about what to reveal to a solicitor!

President Meryl dealt with the county letter and members should please note: Spring council meeting (Barry); National Eisteddfod (Llandow); Make a bag for sale; ACWW project 'Go nuts'; fundraising for women in Cameroon; a card for Queen's diamond jubilee; photographs please for 2013 calendar; link meeting Colwinston, March 22.

Meryl explained the link system for the benefit of new members. Southerndown's link WIs are Colwinston & Llysworney, Merthyr Mawr and Penllyn.

There is a celebration of Wales at St Brides Major church hall, 7.15pm, on March 8.

Charity tractor run

THE 'Tractor Boys of Aberthin' will be holding another vintage tractor road run on Sunday March 25 in aid of Ty Hafan hospice.

It will start from Arthur John car park in Cowbridge, with coffee and tea to start. Lunch at the Blacksmiths Arms, Llanmaes. Entrance is £10 tractor and £5 for lunch, 9.30am-10am. For further information call Martyn on 07973 889712 or Jeff on 07544 725223.

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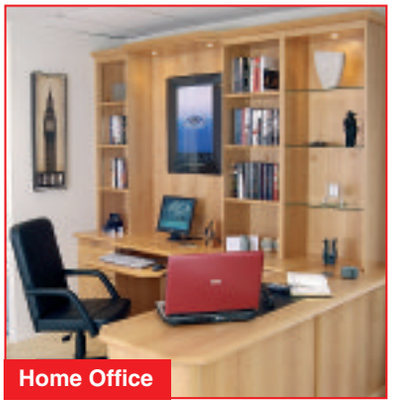

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YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Ogmore Vale Primary School

MRS J Morgan, the headteacher, would like to inform parents that the school is organising themed competitions for the children to help celebrate St David's day.

The nursery and reception class is encouraged to draw and colour a St David's Day picture.

Pupils in years 1 and 2 are being asked to design and decorate a new Welsh flag, or draw and colour a St David's day picture.

Years 3 and 4 pupils are to research who they think is a Welsh hero, and write about them with illustrations or there is a handwriting competition in which they write their own Welsh national anthem, or a Welsh poem.

Tynyrheol primary school

MR Martin Griffiths, the headteacher, would like to advise that everyone is invited, including parents, governors and friends of the school, to the school's Eisteddfod on Thursday, March 1 in the main hall at 9.30am.

Once again, the school will be supporting the 'Go red for the Prince's Trust' charity.

Programmes will be on sale to the visitors and the proceeds will be shared on a 50/50 basis between school funds and the charity.

When the Eisteddfod has finished, visitors will be able to enjoy a free cup of tea or coffee along with a Welsh cake.

Future musical artiste

PHEOBE Ann Lewis is a 13-year-old pupil at Ysgol Gyfun, Llangynwyd, where she sings with the school choir as a chorister and soloist.

Over the last four years, Phoebe Ann has been guest soloist with Côr Meibion Cwm Garw (Garw Valley Male Voice Choir), where she has been enthusiastically applauded for her dignified stage presence and delightful voice.

Her first love is singing and she is presently receiving lessons from opera singer, Charlotte Ellett, the prize-winning soprano, originally from Llantwit Major.

Her most recent success is selection to sing with 'Only Kids Aloud', the latest initiative by 'Only Men Aloud' leader Tim Rhys-Evans.

A chorus of 60 children aged between nine and 13 will sing in the Millennium Centre, Cardiff with the world famous Marlinsky theatre orchestra and chorus and the BBC National chorus of Wales, conducted by Valery Gergiev in a performance of Gustav Mahler's *Symphony No 8* on Sunday, April 1.

Phoebe has also trained as a dancer having obtained high grades in ballet, jazz, tap, and modern-dance. In addition to school activities, Phoebe Ann attends the Curtain-Up Youth Theatre in Maesteg.

Her longer term ambition is to continue her studies in the performing arts at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. She is from a musically gifted family including her brother, Adam, who is an accomplished baritone. His roles have included Beast in *The Beauty and the Beast*, Daddy Warbucks in *Annie* and Bill Sykes in the October 2011 production of *Oliver!*

Both Phoebe Ann and Adam are fluent Welsh speakers.

Phoebe-Anne's grandfather, Bryan Young, is the musical director of the Côr Meibion Cwm Garw. He started his musical career at the age of 10 with the Garw Valley Salvation Army Band before joining the Garw Silver Band and the Ogmore Valley Silver Band.

Bryan sang as chorister and soloist with Côr Meibion Cwm Garw from its formation in 1962 until 1991 when he accepted his present appointment as musical director.

Coytrahen Community Centre

THE Tondu and District branch of the Labour party has organised a quiz night tomorrow, Friday, February 24 at 7.30pm. The bar will be open with a variety of drinks and refreshments. Everyone is welcome and can play in teams or on their own.

Côr Meibion Cwm Garw

THE choir will be joining in St David's Day celebrations at the following schools.

On Wednesday, February 29, it will be performing in Betws Primary School eisteddfod; Thursday, March 1, it will be in the St David's Day concert at Ffaldau Primary School (both starting at 6.30pm). The St David's day celebrations at Blaengarw Primary School have been postponed until March 14.

The choir welcomes visitors and new members at its rehearsals in Pontycymer rugby football club on Monday and Wednesday evenings, 7pm to 8.30pm.

Bridgend Carer's Centre

TODAY (February 23) at the centre there is an information session for newcomers who have just taken on the role of carer between 10am and 12 noon, and a pancake coffee morning for other carers between 10.30am and 12.30pm.

Tomorrow, Friday, February 24 and on the next two Fridays, there will be a 'Looking after me' course between 10am and 1pm. The course will cover a range of subjects such as relaxation techniques; managing anger, fear and frustration; problem solving and action planning techniques, including self management; these will help carers look after their own health while caring for others.

On Monday, February 27, there will be Book Cwtch between 1pm and 2pm, where help is given by providing a book or poem with the opportunity to practice reading out aloud. This has proven to be helpful to the patient the carer looks after by helping the patient relax.

On Tuesday, February 28 between 10.30am and 12 noon, there will be a meeting of the health and well being group. This normally covers a six-week cycle. Also on the same day and times, there will be support for carers who have suffered a recent bereavement at a coffee morning.

On Wednesday, February 29, solicitors will be in attendance to give advice on legal issues affecting carers between 10am and 12pm. Please book an appointment on 01656 658479.

If you are a young adult carer aged 18 to 25 years and would like to meet youngsters in the same situation, then come along on Wednesday, February 29 between 4pm and 6pm, with opportunities to take part in various activities such as crafts and social events.

On Thursday, March 1, there will be an outreach group in Trinity Church Hall, Porthcawl, 9.30am to 12.30pm.

On Fridays at the centre, there are appointments available with Macmillan and Relate, two charities which provide free counselling for carers.

To book, call Rachel on 07582 874186.

Maesteg Gleemen

THE choir will be performing in a fundraising concert for Age Concern at Llantwit Fardre sports club, Church Village, Pontypridd, on St David's Day, March 1, at 7.30pm.

Tickets cost £5 from Age Concern Morgannwg (01443 490650).

The choir has extended its rehearsal periods on Monday and Thursday evenings between 7pm and 9pm at the Royal British Legion Club, Commercial Street, Maesteg, in preparation for its annual concert in Maesteg Town hall on Friday, March 23 at 7pm.

Tondu primary school

MRS Susan Pilsher, the headteacher, would like to advise parents and friends of children in Miss Watson's class (Taf) that they are welcome to attend the class assembly tomorrow, Friday February 24 at 10.20am, and have a cup of coffee or tea when assembly has finished.

This year, on Thursday March 1, the whole school will visit St Fagans to learn about the culture of this special day.

All Saint's church, Penyfai

THE members of the church will be holding a St David's day quiz in the Pheasant Inn on Thursday, March 1.

Hunger lunches

IN support of Christian Aid a lunch of a bowl of soup, bread and a Welsh cake will be provided to everyone who would like to go along to Tondu Wesley Methodist Church on Saturday, February 25 between 12 noon and 1.15pm. The lunch costs £2.50 and all money raised will be donated to the charity.

Ogmore Valley male voice choir

THERE is a musical evening at the Canolfan Bethlehem Centre, Commercial Street, Ogmore Vale on Thursday, March 1, starting at 7pm, with a special St David's day celebration organised by the choir and titled 'Cawl a Chân'– 'Soup and Song'.

Under their musical director, Eira Paskin, (a retired school teacher) along with their accompanists Debbie Lewis and Katrin Jenkins, this choir is renowned for its choral renditions throughout south Wales.

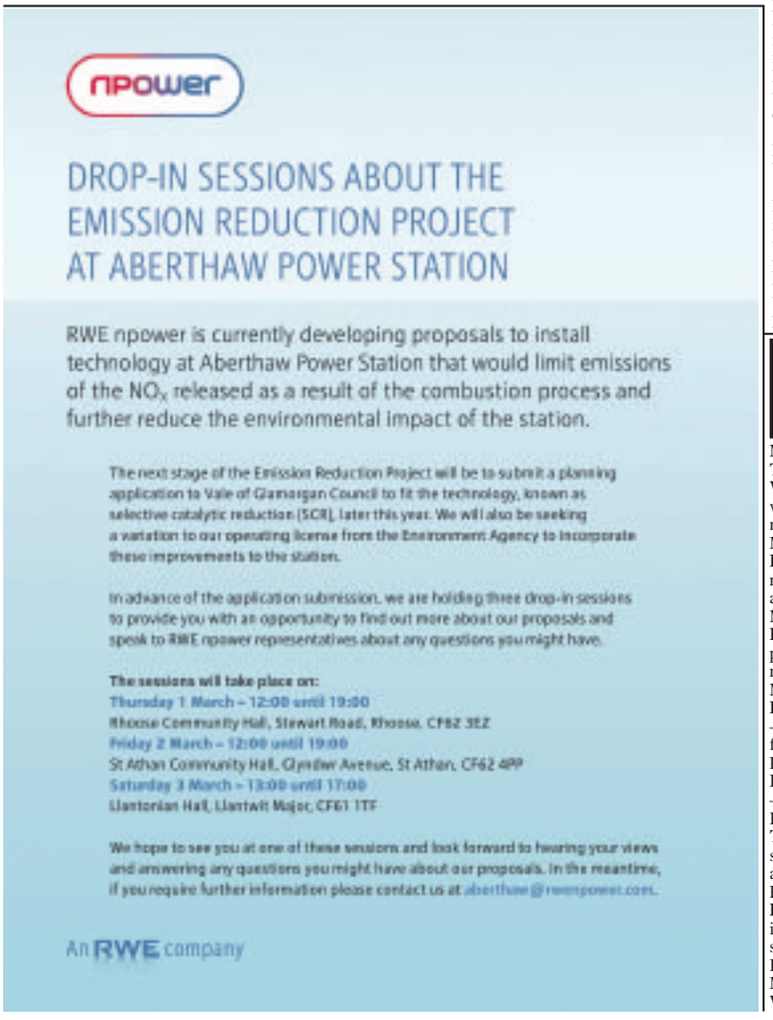
After this feast of music there will be a culinary feast of home made cawl, Bara Brith and Welsh cakes. Tickets are available from John on 01656 841429 or any choir member.

The male voice choir rehearses at the Canolfan Bethlehem Centre on Thursday evenings. There will be a warm welcome to visitors and prospective new members at any rehearsal.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:
If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.
I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk



WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT AND WHERE IN THE BOROUGH

Mr Robert Dargie, **Lee & Turner Ltd, Waterton Lane, Waterton** – replace old signage with new corporate image signage.

Mr Jason Thomas, **19 Beechwood Grove, Pencoed** – reduce height of oak tree by approx 6ft.

Mr Allan Underhill, **20 Ffridd Las, Broadlands, Bridgend** – 30 per cent reduction of four trees to rear.

Mr John Dobbin, **Dunes Bryneglwys Avenue, Porthcawl** – crown reduction of conifer and fell willow.

Pin It Pastry Ltd, **Abergaw Industrial Estate, Brynmenyn** – single storey rear extension.

Invacare Ltd, **Pencoed Technology Park, Pencoed** – single storey extension for storage area.

Porthcawl Comprehensive, **52 Park Avenue, Porthcawl** – install a 9.87 kwp photovoltaic system onto the roof of 'A' Block.

Mr and Mrs T Heatley, **43 Waunbant Road, Kenfig Hill** – amendment to approved extension.

Mrs L Alexander, **73 Heol Castell, Coety, Litchard** – rear flat roof single storey extension and first floor side extension.

Mr Gareth Williams, **68 High Street, Heol Y Cyw, Bridgend** – single storey extension.

Mr Michael Turner, **1A Brooklands Terrace, Nantymoel** – rear ground floor extension.

Mr Nick D Allen, **2 Brynhyfryd Bryngarn Road, Rhiwceiliog, Pencoed** – two storey and single storey domestic extensions and detached private stable block.

Llynfi Valley Credit Union Ltd, **177 Caeru Road, Maesteg** – install disabled toilet to replace the existing toilet.

Mr David Baker, **Harmony, 12 Clos Cae Ffynnon, North Cornelly** – conservatory.

BT Openreach, **in front of the Spar, Quarella Road, Bridgend** – install on equipment cabin.

Mr Robert Flint, **6 Tyle Glas, North Cornelly** – two storey side and first floor side and rear extensions with additional side extension.

Ms Howell and Mr Jones, **1 Blaen Y Fro, Pencoed** – two dormer extensions.

Mrs Paula Hughes, **land at Dan Yr Eglwys (Ty Newydd Farm), Bettws** – detached garage and store and inclusion of additional land within curtilage of dwelling.

Mr DM Mathias, **car parks, Brewery Land, Bridgend** – retention of car parks.

Remploy Ltd, **Unit 2, Horsefair Road, Waterton Industrial Estate, Bridgend** – relax condition 3 of 11/391 to include deconstruct or refurbish for re-use items of furniture.

JP Property Maintenance, **land off New Street, Pantygog, Pontycymmer** – resubmission of reserved matters application for two dwellings.

Mrs E Leith, **27 Bridgend Road, Aberkenfig** – conversion of ground floor shop into flat.

Mr Ian Jones, **43 Ffordd Y Groes, Broadlands, Bridgend** – conservatory extension to rear of property.

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Old Girls Reunion

GARW Grammar School – Cassandra, Gloria and Glenys, classmates at Garw Grammar School in 1955, thought it would be great if everyone could meet up again.

They plan to have a reunion in the Kenfig Hill Rugby Club on Friday, June 29. If you are one of the girls and would like to meet up, have a good night out and reminisce, then call Gloria Davies (Nee Morgan) on 01639 776805 or email: Gloria_davies@sky.com

Concert

THE Cantorion and Coety Choir will be singing in St Theodore's Church to celebrate St David's Day on Friday, March 2 at 7pm.

The soloist will be the brilliant soprano Eleri Griffiths who was singer of the year in 2010. Also singing as part of the St David's Day celebrations will be Mynydd Cynffig Junior School Choir. Tickets are £5 and are available from the school, the church or Theo's Shop.

Talbot Community Centre

CRIME Prevention – PCSO Nerys Lloyd will be visiting the Luncheon Club at the Talbot to give crime prevention advice on Friday, March 2.

This will be a good opportunity to speak to your local officer to discuss any concerns you may have. PCSO Lloyd will also be giving information packs which will be full of helpful tips to keep your homes safe, including personal attack alarms, invisible ultraviolet marker pens and handbag bells.

Shopping Trip – The Talbot is running a day trip to Cribbs Causeway, Bristol and onto Weston-Super-Mare on Thursday, April 26.

This will give you a chance of a couple of hours retail therapy in the shopping centre and then on for a brisk stroll around the new pier in Weston or if you prefer, a ride on the new big wheel on the prom before returning home at about 6.30pm. Cost of the trip is £10.

To make a booking or for further information, contact Cheryl Butcher on 01656 749754.

Shout

THE Kenfig Hill Shout Group would like to thank Age Cymru and Wilkinsons for the winter celebration grant they recently received, which was used to cover the cost of a buffet for everyone who attended their December meeting in the Barnyard, Pyle.

The meeting was quite a success and enjoyed by everybody thanks to the staff of the Barnyard and the buffet provided by them.

COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE

by ***Richard Sims***

Telephone: 01656 746840
Mobile: 07802 439679
E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

Kenfig Hill RFC

GET together – Now that former Welsh international Ray Giles is up and about again after a hip joint replacement, he is overseeing a past and present players reunion at Kenfig Hill Rugby Club on Saturday, March 10.

They are asking all former players to come and catch up with old friends and watch the Wales v Italy match on the big screen over a pint or two. It all kicks off at 1pm with food being provided. For further details, telephone Ray on 07791 250308.

Monks Wood to make good fly-graze damage

VILLAGERS in Wick are picking themselves up after a local community woodland area was damaged by 'fly grazing' – and they have already put together plans to tackle the aftermath.

Monks Wood, a community woodland area that is managed by the Woodland Trust in conjunction with the villagers, was badly damaged when around 60 horses were dumped there over Christmas and the New Year.

Wick resident George Jeffrey told The GEM: "At a recent meeting, a plan was formulated to repair the damage to Monks Wood.

"The reparation plan will begin with repairs to the main entrance, using chippings and metal gates. This work will begin shortly and will be followed by light rolling and rotivating of the rides. Grass seed and wild flower seeds will also be sown.

"Later in the year, a more substantial path will be made from the road entrance to the bench, using 'grass crete'."

The horses, which were desperate for food, stripped the bark off many trees, and there was great concern as to whether they would survive. Mr Jeffrey said: "The condition of the trees will be monitored throughout the year, and by October it should be clear which trees need replacing and which are developing well.

"In the autumn, a village tree planting occasion is planned, with native trees supplied by the Woodland Trust, who will also supervise the planting, and offer advice and suggestions.

"It is also hoped that specialist patches can be created in the wood - for example, a forest garden and/or a wild flower garden.

"These patches will not be allotments (which tend to have short-term aims and objectives), but will be an integral part of the development of Monks Wood for years to come.

"Other developments in the wood, such as a shelter or protected area made from willow or other growing hedge, are welcome, but funding may need to come from sources other than the Woodland Trust."

He added that some villagers had planted memorial trees in the wood, and that these could be replaced if necessary.

Mr Jeffrey reflected: "Are there any positives from 'fly grazing'?

"Well, the wood is now nicely manured, and the grass around the base of the trees has been eaten which could be good for the trees.

"The dead grass between the trees has also been eaten, which exposes the soil for any seed brought by birds, mammals or villagers.

"We are all part of nature and nature has a great way of overcoming adversity.

"The wood will be here long after we have all returned to stardust, but before that, I hope the wood continues to provide pleasure to the folk in Wick and surrounding areas."

PHILIP IRWIN

Panto success for the Maendy YFC

A HECTIC week for Maendy YFC has rounded off three months of hard work and preparation for the annual YFC stage competition.

An extremely well-supported dress rehearsal on February 16 at Barry Memorial Hall kickstarted a weekend full of dames, ugly sisters and baddies. Thank you to the Glamorgan Hunt for warming up the crowd.

The next stop was The Princess Royal Theatre in Port Talbot which saw the seven YFC clubs in Glamorgan go head to head for the opportunity to represent the county at the Wales finals in Llandudno next month.

Gower and Wick kicked off the pantomime competition in style, followed by Neath, Bridgend and Gelligaer on Saturday night. The final night saw Llantrisant followed by Maendy to round off a highly-entertaining weekend.

Maendy's efforts were rewarded in the form of three trophies: Ieuan Rosser winning best actor; the award for best technical production and most importantly, the winning shield for the best performance.

Congratulations to everyone who was involved, both on and off the stage, it really was a team effort!

However, the journey does not stop here! In a fortnight's time, the cast and entourage will take the show on the road, travelling to Llandudno to challenge their counterparts from across Wales, hoping to do Glamorgan proud and to add to Maendy's previous successes in the pantomime competition.

For more information about Maendy YFC please visit www.maendy.btck.co.uk.

'Celebration of Success' day

LOCAL people are invited to a day that will highlight activities available through the Caerau Development Trust on Wednesday, February 29, 11am–2pm.

The trust is now at the Old Blaenllynfi School, and the day – entitled a 'Celebration of Success – is being organised by Morphius, a company now based in the trust.

Sarah Esposito of Morphius told The GEM: "Our 'Celebration of Success' will have important speakers, local councillors, and business people.

"Our staff will be happy to help with any questions that people may have."

She said that Morphius was looking for people interested in signing up for its 'Grow' workshop, which is open to anyone over 16 years of age.

(For more details, see advert on page 1).

Mayor's charity evening at Heronsbridge

THE Bridgend County Civic Charity Appeals Committee and the Mayor of the County Borough of Bridgend, Coun Christopher Michaelides, have organised an evening of entertainment at Heronsbridge School, Ewenny Road, Bridgend.

The evening features the choir and pupils of Heronsbridge School and Llangewydd Junior School, hosted by Rev Michael Komor, the rector of the parish of Coity with Nolton and Brackla, and takes place on Wednesday, March 7 at 6.30pm.

Tickets are £3 adults, children free. The evening is supporting local charities: Glaze Prostate Charity Wales (including development of robotic prostate surgery) at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend; the Stroke Association's Bridgend County Stroke Groups, and Bridgend County Riding for the Disabled.

Lions' book fair is back again

THIS year's Bridgend Lions Charity Book Fair at the Bridgend YMCA will take place over three days, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 2-4.

The Lions are busy putting the finishing touches to their 18th charity book fair and, because of the generosity of people in the Bridgend area, it promises to be another spectacular event.

As ever, there will be an enormous choice of books for adults and children – all at bargain prices. To ensure that the book fair offers the very best value in town, all adult fiction books will, once again, be on sale at £1 each – whether paperback or hardback.

Over the years the Book Fair has raised more than £130,000 for local good causes and, with so many books on offer, is an absolute must for all book lovers

As always, the event will be held in the main hall in Bridgend YMCA on March 2-4, 9am to 5pm daily. Admission is free, with light refreshments available at a modest charge.

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Welsh Open Brass Bands Entertainment Championship a huge success in Porthcawl

THE 15th Welsh Open Brass Bands Entertainment Championship was held at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl on Saturday with 11 brass bands taking part.

This was a successful competition with great audience support.

The secretary of the Eisteddfod, Dewi Roger Price, announced his retirement after 38 years in the post and he will be succeeded by Philip Rogers of Penygroes, Ammanford. Also, the treasurer, Eileen Smith, is retiring after many years of loyal service and her post will be taken by a former Eisteddfod treasurer, Mike Portway of Porthcawl.

Rob Gowing, contest controller, continues in his post, which is good news for this celebration of the best in music.

RIGHT: Retiring Eisteddfod secretary/organiser Dewi Roger Price (left) with his successor Philip Rogers.

ABOVE: The City of Cardiff Melingriffith Band won the £300 and Porthcawl Town Council Trophy for being the band with the most entertaining stage presentation. They received the trophy from Porthcawl Town Council leader Coun David Deere.

Members of the Rugeley Power Station Brass Band, Stafford, who did not compete but have travelled to Porthcawl for the last ten years to support the Miners Eisteddfod Brass Band Championships.

REPORT AND PHOTOS BY KEITH E MORGAN

LEFT: Retiring treasurer Eileen Smith receiving a presentation from her successor Mike Portway.

ABOVE: The £1,000 and CISWO Trophy first prize went to the Tredegar Band for the tenth time, receiving it from the 2010-11 Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Mary Emment-Lewis.

ABOVE: Byron Newton, a euphonium player with Tredegar, receives the Secretary s Rosebowl for the best solo instrumentalist of the day from Dewi Roger Price.

ABOVE: Hannah Eve Rogers of Seven Sisters receives her Graham Rees Memorial Award from Graham s widow Anne Veronica Rees.

ABOVE: The BTM Band took the third prize £300 and Doug John Trophy, receiving it from Doug John.

The Tylorstown Brass Band.

ABOVE: William Mead (13), of the Lewis Merthyr Band, receives the Rosemary Deere Shield for the youngest player on the day from Coun Rosemary Deere.

Officer redundancy packages questioned by local campaigner

PROPOSALS on how the Vale of Glamorgan Council's senior management will be restructured should be finalised soon.

The council points out that there are 'set arrangements' that govern how much employees get in the event of redundancy.

However, one campaigner on local issues in Barry claimed there would be "outrage" if senior council staff were given big redundancy payments at council tax payers' expense.

Speaking on behalf of Barry Plaid Cymru, Steven Blakeman said: "It's about time that the Vale Council came clean about the redundancy packages that are being considered for the top tier of officers.

"There was supposed to be a special council meeting when this was to be discussed but it was pulled at the last minute."

Mr Blakeman, who has campaigned for a better anti-flood infrastructure in the town for more than four years, added: "What my neighbours and, I'm sure, the whole town wants to know is how much is this going to cost us?

"These officers are already paid very well. In excess of £130,000, I believe.

"Why should they be in line for massive and unnecessary pay offs?"

Mr Blakeman claimed there would be concern if the officers received 'golden goodbyes' on top of their usual salaries and pensions.

"Is it true that each well paid executive is likely to receive, in addition to their usual pay and their pension, an extra golden goodbye in the order of £30,000 tax free?

"How could this possibly be justified? We could be heading for a £100,000 total pay-out.

"Think what this money could do in the town. Maybe some of the dreadful potholes could be repaired. How about some substandard pavements being resurfaced?"

The GEM put Mr Blakeman's concerns to the Vale Council and a spokeswoman explained: "Proposals to restructure the council senior management have not yet been agreed.

"The proposals will go before full council in the near future.

"When any council officer is made redundant there are set arrangements that govern their redundancy package – these arrangements apply to all grades of staff, including chief officers."

ABOVE: Coun Jeff James is optimistic that funding for traffic lights on the Docks Link Road will be forthcoming in the next financial year.

INTRODUCTION OF TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT MAIN JUNCTION

Vale Council seeks funds for the Docks Link Road

The Vale Council has submitted a bid for funding to the Welsh Government to enable it to implement work to resolve the road safety issues on the Docks Link Road.

If the bid is successful, the scheme would include the introduction of traffic signals at the Coldbrook Road East and Argae Lane junctions.

The scheme is being supported by the South East Wales Transport Alliance and would be delivered in the new financial year – after April 1.

Coun Jeffrey James, the cabinet member for planning and transportation, said: "The need for new safety measures on this stretch of road is indisputable and a top priority for the Vale Council's road safety programme and we are extremely confident that the bid will be accepted.

"The council has an excellent track record of delivering road safety schemes in recent years, and I am sure that the ability of this council to deliver on key road safety measures will be a factor which the Welsh Government will take into account when considering the bid."

There has been a general acceptance that while fatalities on the road have not necessarily been caused by the configuration of it (driver errors have sometimes been a cause), slowing the speed of traffic would be beneficial – hence the idea of lights.

One Barry resident has been in touch with the Vale Council because he is so concerned at the length of time it has taken to sort out safety on the road.

Mr Jeff Heathfield claimed people were becoming frustrated by a lack of action.

He said: "The Vale Council has dragged its heels on this very dangerous road for far too long.

"I wanted to remind the council about this issue because I know many Barry people are frustrated that nothing is happening.

"The opposition and the council seem feeble on this matter and I believe members of the public need to intervene in council business to get things moving.

"Those standing for election want our vote in a few weeks, so now is the time to raise awareness.

"I feel the community has had more than enough public posturing about this dangerous road and it's time something was done."

Mr Heathfield added: "Actions speak louder than words: this has dragged on for far too long."

Barry residents, Jeff Heathfield (right) and Dennis Harkus say something needs to be done on the link road as a matter of urgency.

Cowbridge learns all about African charity

A LOCAL charity, 'Africa Mothers Foundation International', held a lively Zimbabwe information evening, with African food and talks at the Little Shop of Calm, Cowbridge, on Sunday, February 19.

The Cardiff-based charity is a women led organisation linking communities in Wales and Zimbabwe, to help end global poverty by educating girls.

The evening was opened by Vale based horticulturalist Sophie Durnan, who runs the Riverside Market Garden and box scheme in St Hilary.

She gave a report of her visit to Zimbabwe in November to see a women's co-operative, The Sezanani Garden, which is being assisted by the charity.

Bekezela Nsingo, the charity's Zimbabwean-born founder, gave a highly motivational talk of how her life had been changed by education and how this had enabled her to begin the charity.

Currently more than 1,050 young girls have their schooling fees paid through the Keep Girls in School campaign. This costs just $10 per term per child.

The evening was a chance for people from across the Vale to find out how they could get involved, delicious African food was provided and over £100 was raised for this good cause. Thank you to everyone who attended.

For more information, visit www.africanmothersfoundation.org.

SD

APPEAL AFTER RACING BIKE IS STOLEN

A picture of the bike stolen in Penarth.

POLICE in Penarth are appealing for information after a distinctive racing bike was stolen on Windsor Road on Wednesday (February 15).

The Cube Agree men's racing bike, which is worth £1,600, was stolen from outside Pearn's Pharmacy at around 9am. The model is rare in this country and was specially imported by the owner from Germany.

Anyone who may have witnessed the theft, or may have seen the bike since, is asked to contact Penarth Police Station on 101.

Dyspraxia group's March meeting

THE next meeting of the Vale Dyspraxia Support Group will be held on Monday, March 5 at 7.30pm in the Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry.

The group supports children and young people with dyspraxia (as well as related conditions such as dyslexia, ADHD, Asberger's Syndrome, OCD, Tourettes).

Free admission to Dyffryn Gardens

TO celebrate St David's Day, Dyffryn Gardens will be open to the public for free on Sunday, February 26.

Opening times are 10am - 4pm, with the last entry admitted at 3pm.

For more details, visit www.dyffryngardens.org.uk

Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru,
40 Parc Tŷ Glas,Llanishen, Caerdydd CF14 5DU

Chwefror 23 2012

Parthed: Rhybudd o Gais (Deddf Trwyddedu 2003) Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru, Bro Morgannwg 2012

Cyflwynwyd cais i Gyngor Bwrdeistref Bro Morgannwg ar y dyddiad uchod am drwydded mangre er mwyn cynnal Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru 2012 ar y tiroedd canlynol:

Tir ger Llandŵ, Bro Morgannwg (hen faes awyr - SS957717)

Rhwng Mehefin 6 – Awst 2, a rhwng Awst 12 – Medi 30 2012 cyflenwi Alcohol (gweithwyr yn unig)
12:00 - 24:00

Rhwng Awst 4 -11 2012, ar gyfer y gweithgareddau, ac yn ystod yr oriau canlynol:

Gweithgaredd	Amser cychwyn	Amser gorffen
Dramau	8.00a.m.	1.00.p.m.
Ffilmiau	8.00a.m.	11.00p.m.
Digwyddiadau Chwaraeon dan dô	9.00a.m.	6.00p.m.
Cerddoriaeth Fyw	8.00a.m.	1.30a.m.
Cerddoriaeth wedi'i recordio	9.00a.m.	1.30a.m.
Perfformiadau dawns	8.00a.m	11.00p.m.
Creu cerddoriaeth	8.00a.m.	11.00p.m.
Dawnsio	8.00a.m.	1.00a.m.
Darparu lluniaeth hwyrnos	11.00p.m.	5.00a.m.
Cyflenwi alcohol	11.00a.m.	1.00a.m.

Gellir gweld copi o'r cais llawn yn yr Adran Drwyddedu, Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Holton Road, Y Barri CF62 7AH yn ystod oriau gwaith arferol.

Dylid cyflwyno unrhyw wrthwynebiad (sydd yn ymwneud â'r pedwar nôd trwyddedu) yn ysgrifenedig at yr Adran Drwyddedu yn y cyfeiriad uchod, erbyn Mawrth 21 2012.

Mae'n drosedd (adran 158 o'r ddeddf Drwyddedu 2003) i wneud datganiad anghywir, un-ai o fwriad neu yn ddihid mewn perthynas â'r cais hwn, gyda dirwy o £5,000 os y dedfrydir chi yn euog o'r drosedd honno.

This is a statement made under the Licensing Act 2003, that an application has been made for a premises licence to hold the National Eisteddfod of Wales on land near Llandow in the Vale of Glamorgan (old airfield), between June 6 – September 30 2012. Full details of the application can be obtained by contacting the Licensing Dept., Vale of Glamorgan BC, Holton Road, Barry CF62 7AH during normal office hours. Any representations (relating to the four licensing objectives) must be made to the Vale of Glamorgan BC by March 21 2012.

It is an offence liable on conviction to a fine up to £5000 (under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003) knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application.

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CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

'Valuable member of community' had child porn on his computer

POLICE who raided the home of a Tondu man found more than 8,500 indecent images on his computer, Cardiff Crown Court has been told.

Stephen Penny (46) of Llynfi Road had admitted that he had been watching them for 10–11 years.

He admitted 19 charges of possessing and making indecent images. A man with no previous convictions, he was sentenced to a community order for three years.

Judge Niclas Parry also imposed a Sexual Offences Protection Order, ordered him to register as a sex offender, and ordered that the images be destroyed.

Prosecutor Julian Greenwood said that on August 13 last year, police received information that a website was being downloaded.

They executed a search warrant at Penny's home, where he was the sole occupant, and arrested him.

Pointing at his computer, he said: "There will be images on there."

Police recovered the computer, a pair of children's underpants, and a digital camera. Altogether, there were 8,768 indecent images, including movies of extreme pornography.

Mr Greenwood said Penny was thoroughly co-operative with the police and said he had been viewing and downloading for 10 to 11 years.

The children involved were mainly aged between 10 and 14.

Said Mr Greenwood: "He also indicated he used the digital camera to obtain shots of local children, but he was not involved in producing any material."

His counsel, Jeanette Treharne, said: "Many of the images were at the lower level of seriousness. He is a hard-working man and is clearly motivated to require help.

"He is well-respected in the area, and feels he has let everyone down. What he had was an addiction, and he now says he won't have a computer in his house."

Said the Judge: "You must understand by committing these offences for many years, you have been contributing directly to the sexual abuse of young children. What you are viewing was directly happening to these young children."

He said the aggravating features were the length of the offences and the very high number of images.

He said he had also been filming passers-by, including a child in a swimming pool.

"There are worrying features in this case, but clearly you are a very valuable member of the community, and there was no evidence of you sharing or distributing the images."

£2 million project starts in Bridgend town centre

ANOTHER phase of regeneration in Bridgend gets under way this month when a £2 million project gets the starts in the town centre.

The highways and special projects division of leading civil engineering and building specialists North Midland Construction plc (NMC) says that it is expanding its public realm portfolio after securing a £2.2 million contract to carry out regeneration work for Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC).

A company spokesperson said: "NMC will be resurfacing the whole of Bridgend town centre with Pennant Sandstone paving that has been sourced from the Forest of Dean to ensure the landscape is in keeping with the local environment.

"Work will also include upgrading drainage, street lighting and soft landscaping. The town centre will also feature specially commissioned artwork.

"NMC has significant expertise in public realm work and experienced growth in demand during 2011 when the company completed a number of projects, including major regeneration in Liverpool, Leeds and Wakefield."

The spokesperson described the work in Bridgend as part of a "£10 million transformation of the town centre that is being implemented to ensure it remains a vibrant area with a sustainable future".

Work will start this month and is due for completion in August.

Geoff Poyzer, executive director of special projects at NMC, said: "We're delighted to have been awarded this contract and to be involved in such an important regeneration project."

Coun David Sage, deputy leader at BCBC, added: "The council's ongoing regeneration plans are helping to transform Bridgend and are creating a brighter, better town centre.

"In addition to establishing an attractive shopping environment, the work is also supporting local businesses by boosting commercial confidence and encouraging greater private sector investment in the area."

Afan Argoed challenge for Kenfig Air Cadets

PICTURED: Cdt J Clark, Cdt E Davies, Cdt J Sadd, Cdt Cpl J Aston and Cdt Sgt N Cooper.

RECENTLY, a team of five cadets from Kenfig Hill Air Cadets, under the supervision of Flying Officer Hannah Lawson, took on the Afan Argoed Challenge and came fourth out of 20 teams.

The turnout this year was one of the best; 20 teams took part from across No.3 Welsh Wing. Each team had to complete a course putting their map reading and navigation skills to the test and at each check point there was a task or challenge they had to undertake which ranged from first aid to map symbols, with a few brain teasers thrown in for good measure.

Civilian instructor Chris Lewis said that on the day, the cadets were professional, enthusiastic and not only eager to complete the challenge but do well.

They were delighted at coming fourth, especially as three of the cadets have only been with the Squadron for six months and have limited expedition experience.

Lindsay Thomas, Secretary

Man with rolling pin attacked wife

AN OGMORE Vale man used a rolling pin as a weapon when he attacked his wife in their home.

Shortly afterwards, Christopher Gully (44) picked up a knife and threatened to harm himself, said prosecutor Mike Hallett at Cardiff Crown Court.

Gully, of Llewellyn Street, pleaded guilty to a charge of causing actual bodily harm and was jailed for 36 weeks, the sentence suspended for 18 months, and made subject to an 18-month supervision order.

Judge Niclas Parry said: "This was a serious incident of domestic violence because of the use of a weapon. What aggravated the position was that a knife was produced.

"The use of a knife behind closed doors is becoming a grave concern, and the consequences could have been quite catastrophic."

Mr Hallett said that on September 12, Gully had an argument with his wife, Susan, and then went to his mother's address.

The following morning, he returned to his home and continued the argument.

"It grew quite heated, and he took a knife and a rolling pin from a drawer and struck her twice on the crown of the head with the rolling pin.

"There was a 10-minute break in the argument, and he picked up the knife and threatened to cut his wrists."

The police were called, and Mrs Gully suffered two lumps to the top of her head.

The police found that Gully was drunk and he admitted having an argument with his wife after becoming "the worse for wear".

He was said to have convictions for assault, causing actual bodily harm, and assaulting the police.

His counsel, Hilary Roberts, said: "He had a destructive, violent upbringing which has given him a misplaced attitude.

"The attack was not sustained and thankfully the injuries were relatively minor. In the last few years, he has been on a downward spiral because of drink. He regards his marriage as completely over, but he is not a hopeless case."

Pupils at Corneli Primary School are champions!

A GROUP of schoolchildren from south Wales are hoping to follow in the footsteps of Jenson Button and become Britain's next Formula One champion!

Year-6 pupils from Corneli Primary School in Bridgend have spent the last few months designing and building their own mini F2 car, ready for a national competition.

The pupils taking part in the competition are Rebecca Sutton, Hannah Ashton, Owain Evans, Nathan Tilley, Charlotte Morgan and Cerys Davenport.

Two weeks ago, they went head to head against 25 other schools from across the country in the F1 in schools competition and finished as winners.

They also won awards for the best use of CAD (computer aided technology), and also won an award for the best engineered car.

They will now go forward and represent Wales at the national finals in June.

A school spokesman said: "The children doing the project have learnt valuable skills, not just ICT, as they have been expected to write letters, use spreadsheets to manage the accounts, as well as recording their own documentary on how the car was made, and writing and performing a presentation to a panel of judges.

The mini racing car is made from balsawood and uses a gas canister to power it along at speeds of 60mph. In fact, over a 25-meter stretch, their racing car reached an average speed of 51.3mph from a standing start.

The children were also judged on their pit display, strength of team work, portfolio and verbal presentation.

Councillor's Jennings' Building plans get local AM's backing

Couns Ken Watts and Rosemary Deere pose in front of Jennings Building with Shadow Regeneration minister Byron Davies AM.

TWO Porthcawl borough councillors have won backing from the Shadow Regeneration minister for new proposals for Porthcawl harbour.

Coun Rosemary Deere and Coun Ken Watts have proposed turning Jennings' Building into an upmarket boutique hotel and restaurant along the lines of the Harbourmaster Hotel in Aberaeron.

They accompanied Welsh Conservative Regional AM Byron Davies to the site and won his support for the plan.

Mr Davies AM said: "This is a fine, listed building right on the harbour. Porthcawl regeneration has dragged on for many years with little progress so I am keen to back this plan which could produce some lasting benefit for the businesses of Porthcawl by drawing in additional visitors."

Coun Deere said that she and Coun Watts wanted Jennings' Building taken out of the regeneration package and instead developed in tandem with the £3m facelift planned by the council for the harbour.

She said: "The harbour is a focal point for the resort and providing the new lock gates and extra berths will boost the area's tourism industry."

Coun Watts added: "Jennings' Building is in a very attractive setting and could draw in the sort of visitors who currently go to places like Solva and Aberaeron.

"It is part of Porthcawl's industrial heritage but it has been neglected for too long."

The suggestion is being considered by officers at BCBC and Louise Fradd, director of communities, has said that they could start marketing the building to a private developer once the harbour works get underway.

Charity concert in Ewenny Priory

THE Ewenny Arts Festival and Ewenny and Corntown National Eisteddfod 2012 Appeals Committee have organised a Cyngerdd Mawreddog, (Grand Concert).

It will be hosted by D Hugh Thomas and will feature three tenors, Crwys, John and Robyn Lyn; as well as Cantorion Coity, and Bethan Rees, a flautist, and Llangan Primary School Choir.

It takes place on Thursday, March 8 at 7.30pm. Tickets (£10) are available from Ewenny Pottery (01656 653020); Helen (01656 667047); Mari (01656 664105); Llangan Primary School (01446 772403); and the Ewenny and Corntown National Eisteddfod 2012 Appeals Committee (07971 477239).

All proceeds go to the National Eisteddfod at the Vale of Glamorgan 2012.

'Road to Calvary' at St Michael's

THE Llynfi Valley Council of Churches is holding a 'Passion Play' called Road To Calvary at St Michael's Church, Maesteg, at 7pm on March 2.

It is produced by St Vincent and De Paul Players from Clydach who have been performing it for charity for over 20 years.

Tickets are £5 available from Eirwen Thomas on 01656 736379 or by paying on the door on the night.

The budding promoters from Caerau Primary.

YOUNG PROMOTERS SET THE STAGE FOR A GREAT NIGHT

AS PART of the Arts Council of Wales' Young Promoters Scheme, children at Caerau Primary School have been hard at work promoting Theatr Na n'Og's production of Aesop's Fables, due to take place at Caerau Development Trust on Wednesday, March 7.

The budding promoters have spent Tuesday afternoons attending workshops focusing on different aspects of stage production, including arts management and negotiation, marketing and publicity.

This has given them an insight into education in the arts and allowed them to gain the necessary skills to be able to promote the production, including poster and leaflet design.

The performance is being subsidised by Night Out, an Arts Council of Wales scheme that helps to bring professional performances into community buildings at an affordable price.

To purchase tickets for this event contact Beth Ellis on 01656 810225. Tickets are also available on the door on the night.

Zero rise in council tax

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

She added: "This will give some welcome respite to hard pressed families locally.

"But unfortunately for Bridgend, the Welsh Government has refused to give local authorities the extra money sent to Cardiff Bay by the Treasury in London to fund a council tax freeze.

"This means that BCBC will be having to cut more deeply into its budget than it should. Council taxpayers in Bridgend should remember who is to blame when they see local services such as leisure, libraries, education and adult social care being cut back.

"The blame lies fairly and squarely on the doorstep of Bridgend AM and First Minister Carwyn Jones and his government in Cardiff."

The GEM approached Mr Jones' office for a comment but, at the time of going to press, one had not been received.

Can you give Zacky a home?

THE GEM has joined forces with the Dogs Trust to find suitable homes for inmates at the Bridgend rehoming centre.

THIS WEEK: Zacky is a three-year-old pointer cross. He is a friendly boy, but lacks confidence around other dogs. However, with some socialisation and training he has made brilliant progress at the centre and has made some firm four-legged friends.

He is looking for an adult-only home, with someone who can build a relationship with him – they will be rewarded with a very affectionate dog! You can see a video of Zacky playing with some of his friends on *www.youtube.com/dogstrust*. If you can offer Zacky a home, please pop in to Dogs Trust, Court Colman, Pen-y-fai, Bridgend, Tuesday-Sunday 12pm-4pm, or call 01656 725219.

Zacky.

Fun workshop at Newton Beach

The children show off their sculptures.

BRIDGEND County Borough Council's Arts Development team recently supported the 'Love 2 Walk' festival with a beach-combing art workshop on Thursday, February 16.

Children explored Newton Beach for objects they could use to create artistic sculptures.

A variety of walking activities also took place over February half-term to give a taster of the festival, which begins on September 29.

Keira-Jo wins top volunteer award

KEIRA-JO Stanton from Llantwit Major has been chosen as the Soroptimist International Cardiff and District Young Volunteer of 2011.

Fifteen-year-old Keira-Jo, a student at Cowbridge Comprehensive, has been freely giving her time and enthusiasm to help others since she was 12.

She has used her experience of being bullied at school to become a peer educator through the medium of dance, which she has always loved. She supports youth workers, runs dance classes, sets up projects, and has become a mentor to other youngsters with problems.

Senior youth worker Cath Miles said: "Keira has become a positive role model for her peers and provides support, encouragement and inspiration."

Soroptimist International is an international women's service organisation, committed to helping women and girls achieve their full potential. More than 40 schools and youth centres in the Vale and Cardiff areas were invited to nominate girls for this new annual award, which recognises volunteer work in the community.

Keira-Jo went along to Churchill's Hotel in Cardiff to meet club members and to receive her award citation, together with a cash award of £100, which she is putting towards a volunteering trip to South Africa.

BIG SCREEN

BIG Screen's next presentation is Resistance (Cert PG) today, (Thursday, February 23) at 7.30pm in the town hall.

Set in the war, but by no means a war film, it is from the novel by Owen Sheers and stars Michael Sheen and Andrea Riseborough.

Doors open 7.10pm. Tickets £3 (available in advance from the town clerk's office, or on the door).

HELP THE POLICE 'BAG A BURGLAR'

POLICE are asking the people of Bridgend County Borough to help root out thieves as part of their new 'Bag a Burglar' campaign.

The initiative seeks to encourage residents to report anyone living in their area who they suspect may be involved in burglary or theft.

Detective Inspector David Rees of Bridgend CID said: "Bridgend continues to be a safe place to live and the latest crime figures show there has been a 24 per cent reduction in house burglary in the area.

"We are asking people to help us bag a burglar by reporting their suspicions. It might be something as simple as regular comings and goings from an address throughout the day, people being in the area who wouldn't normally be there or property being regularly moved in and out of an address."

Anyone with information on burglary or theft in their area should call Bridgend Police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. To arrange a home security visit from your local PCSO please contact 101.

Detective Inspector David Rees launching the Bag a Burglar campaign.

Come see the book doctor!

BRIDGEND County Borough's libraries are celebrating 'World Book Day' with a Book Doctor event at the Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend.

The book doctors will be holding sessions where they will ask 'patients' who have turned away from books about their personalities, allowing them to produce a tailored reading list to inspire them to get the reading bug back.

The events are taking place on March 1-2 between 10am and 4pm. For more information, or to book an appointment, contact Diana on 01656 642465 or Helen on 01656 752048.

You can now read your GEM online - www.bridgend-today.co.uk

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THURSDAY 23rd FEB	FRIDAY 24th FEB	SATURDAY 25th FEB	FINAL DAY SUNDAY 26th FEB
10am-5.30pm	9am-5.30pm	9am-5.30pm	10am-3.30pm

HERE'S JUST *A SMALL SELECTION* OF WHAT'S ON OFFER

NEW RANGES REDUCED!

FORTUNA Glass Table & 6 Chairs Now only £469

SOUTHBURY Hardwood Table & 6 Chairs only £595

HALF PRICE!

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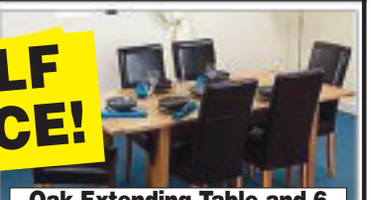

Oak Extending Table and 6 Upholstered Chairs only £549

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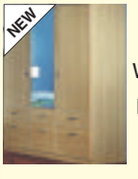
DOORS OPEN - *THURSDAY 23rd FEBRUARY @ 10am*

Dover 2-mirrored door Sliding Wardrobe

1.81m wide (6'0")
Was ~~£499~~
Now only £349

Halle 3-sliding door 6-drawer Wardrobe



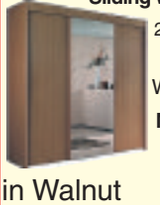
in natural Beech
Was ~~£499~~
Now only £349

Chroma
Chestnut & Gloss Black
3-door/ 3 drawer only £399
4-door/ 3 drawer only £499

Vezalay 2-mirror/Sliding Door Wardrobe

2m wide (6'7")
Was ~~£849~~
Now only £499

Imperial 3-dr/Centre Mirror Sliding Wardrobe



2.5m wide (8'3")
Was ~~£699~~
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Also available in Walnut

Kingswood Overbed Fitment complete with Corner and 3-door Wardrobe

Was ~~£1,519~~
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Out and About with The GEM

Shocks and scares aplenty in creepy British horror film

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

PRIOR to November 2001, Daniel Radcliffe was merely a child actor who had popped up in small roles in TV's *David Copperfield* and *The Tailor of Panama*. One reasonably successful movie franchise later, in the shape of *Harry Potter*, and Radcliffe has become a bankable movie actor having also earned his spurs on the stage in *Equus* and *How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying*.

The first stage of his post-Potter career comes in *The Woman In Black,* where Radcliffe plays Arthur Kipps, a widowed lawyer who is tasked with sorting out the papers of a deceased woman. Travelling to the local village, Kipps soon discovers there is a vengeful ghost who is terrorising local children, and as he digs deeper into her backstory uncovers intrigue and mystery...

The first move of Daniel Radcliffe having put Harry Potter to rest was always going to draw attention, with people eager to see just what he was capable of outside of Hogwarts and spells. The answer, based on the evidence of *The Woman In Black*, is that Radcliffe has much promise, shining in what is a spooky and, at times, terrifying horror film that harks back to scares and jumps rather than blatant blood and gore.

Director James Watkins may have only made one film, but that effort, *Eden Lake*, was a chilling look at ASBO youth, and Watkins carries that air of malevolence into this film; the subject matter couldn't be further away, but tonally the films share the same air of suspense and danger.

Watkins' direction is steeped in the classic school of horror, delivering a showcase in showing only the merest hints and allowing the audience's expectations to take over. The result is jumps and scares that come sometimes out of the blue, sometimes just a moment before you expect them, Watkins cleverly plays with convention and offers fresh shocks that work incredibly well.

Visually he creates a bleak look to the film, the colours mainly greys and dark blues, shadows lingering on the edge of the shot; it is impressive direction from Watkins, contributing plenty to the overriding feeling of spookiness and atmospherics that pervade every frame.

In the lead, Daniel Radcliffe is impressive as Kipps, and any lack of believability in him playing father to a young boy is superceded by his ability in playing the tortured lawyer caught up in a maelstrom of eerie happenings and spooky incidents.

It is a performance that requires reaction rather than action, but Radcliffe gives the character an edge of darkness and realism that brings him to life.

There is a solid supporting cast of British talent, Ciaran Hinds and Janet McTeer shining brightly as a troubled husband and wife who are trying to process their own problems with the ghostly woman; the former bringing a level of gravitas and mystery to the character, while the latter delivers a memorable, if slight (thanks to the script) turn. Her mental breakdown gives way to spooky outbreaks of writing that add to the ambience.

Jane Goldman's script does a good job of transferring the book to the big screen, making it more filmic and handling the tone well, while the altered ending, though not quite the dramatic and hard hitting one of the original story, does at least give the film a poignant and emotional conclusion.

As good as the film is, there is a feeling of it building towards something that never comes. It ends with a whimper rather than the bang you would be expecting, but it is still a superbly-made and eerie offering that is a step above most horror offerings.

The Woman In Black is a scary film for the more discerning horror fan.

VERDICT: A nerve jangling, jumpy scarefest, *The Woman In Black* kickstarts Daniel Radcliffe's post-Potter career with oomph.

A strong central performance from the actor, along with skilled direction from James Watkins, makes the film a top quality effort that is definitely worth catching.

Recommended.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Amityville Horror* (1979), *Dark Water* (2002).

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR, AND WHERE, IN YOUR LOCAL AREA

National judge's 'allotment' talk

LLANTWIT Major Horticultural Society's next meeting is on Wednesday, February 29 in the Llantonian Hall at 7.30pm.

Mr Mel Saunders, a National Vegetable Society Judge and former speaker at Pencoed College, will give an illustrated talk entitled 'The Allotment Through the Seasons'.

Admission to the talk, refreshments and raffle are free.

All are welcome, you do not have to be a member to attend.

For queries, contact the secretary Sylvia Geary on 01446 792087.

Atal-y-Fro fundraiser

ON International Women's Day, a women's aid project, Atal-y-Fro, is holding a fundraising event on March 8.

Tickets are on sale for £12, and includes a cabaret night and disco, with a hog roast.

There will be an awards ceremony with nominations for women who have helped within the community of the Vale in memory of Edwina Vaughan, who contributed endlessly to help women in the Vale.

The award is 'The Edwina Vaughan Award'. It will be given on the night of International Women's Day. Contact the office on 01446 744755 to purchase tickets for the evening.

Playing at Castle Folk

THE Castle Folk Club is proud to present Chris Moreton, the UK's premier flatpicker and world class lead guitarist, and bluegrass multi-instrumentalist.

On Wednesday, March 14 at 8pm, £5 a ticket (including food).

Call Geoff on 01446 402822 for ticket booking, or purchase from behind the bar at the Castle Hotel, Jewel Street, Barry.

Sporting memorabilia

KAREN TIMBRELL of Cardiff, whose daughter Holly was diagnosed with an incurable brain tumour at the age of 13, is auctioning various items of sporting memorabilia, which includes Wales rugby s football memorabilia, to raise desperately needed funds for Brain Tumour Research.

Bids need to be received by half-time (4.45pm) during the Wales v England Rugby International this Saturday, February 25.

Karen says: "As a family we are committed to doing all we can to raise funds for research into brain tumours. We want to help find a cure for this terrible disease before it is too late for Holly. We are aiming to raise as much as we can from a silent auction of four lots and hope that everyone will spread the word among their friends and families, as well as on Facebook and on Twitter."

The first lot is an official training shirt from the Wales Rugby World Cup 2011, signed by the entire squad.

Lot two is a framed collection of Welsh footballers autographs from the 2011 Football Association of Wales Awards.

Lot three is a signed photograph of middleweight boxing legend, Jake LaMotta.

The fourth lot is a Wales rugby ball signed by the 2009 squad.

To enter a bid for any of these items, send an email to rugbyshirt-bid@hotmail.co.uk, stating the lot you are bidding for with your highest bid.

Bidding closes on Saturday, February 25 at 4.45pm.

For further information, contact http://www.justgiving.com/HollyTimbrell or www.braintumourresearch.org

Antique fair

AN antique and collectors' fair is at the Copthorne Hotel, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff, on Sunday, February 26, 10am–4.30pm.

Stalls include militaria, glass, jewellery, furniture, Welsh shawls, vintage linen, ceramics, art, books and vintage fashion. *Telephone 02920 512349 for more information.*

Win tickets!

Live music at the Memo, with T Rextasy and Bublé Fever

Awarded the accolade of 'The Best Live Tribute Band in the UK' by the BBC, T.Rextasy bring one of the most flamboyant and charismatic bands of the original glam rock era to the Memo on Friday 2nd March. T.Rextasy play homage to Mark Bolan's biggest hits, such as '20th Century Boy', 'Telegram Sam', 'Metal Guru', 'I Love To Boogie', 'Get it On', and of course 'Children of the Revolution'.

Truly a rock'n'roll concert for all ages - If you would like to know exactly what a Marc Bolan concert was like in the 1970s, then this show is for you!

Charming, talented and utterly gorgeous it's no wonder that Rickie Arthur, from Newport, has been recognised as the best tribute to Michael Bublé in Europe! Rickie Arthur, and Bublé Fever, is setting the world of music alight at the Memo on Friday 9th March, with an unique and distinct interpretation of not just Bublé, but some of the world's greatest swing, big band and Motown artists.

A blinding blend of classical training, charisma and killer vocals quite literally raise the roof at every venue, with more lining up to book him, supported by his 7 piece live band.

To win two tickets for both events, just answer this question:

Q: Who was the lead singer of T Rex?

Name .....

.....

Address and post code .....

Tel .....Email .....

Competition Rules:

1. Closing date for entries: 01.03.12
2. Winners will be randomly selected and informed on 01.03.12
3. Competition prize is two tickets for T Rextasy, Friday 2nd March and two tickets for Bublé Fever, Friday 9th March.

Send your answers to: Memorial Hall and Theatre, Gladstone Road, Barry CF62 8NA, Or email us at boxoffice@barrymemo.co.uk with your answer.

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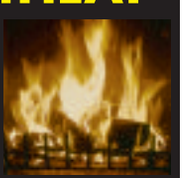

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The GEM is proud to be an official partner of the 2012 National Eisteddfod in the Vale of Glamorgan

Mae'r GEM yn falch o fod yn un o bartneriaid swyddogol Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, 2012

The National Eisteddfod team are in their red camper van!

Eisteddfod Marketing Visits

WITH the National Eisteddfod fast approaching, the festival team will be out and about in the Vale on February 28-29.

Travelling with Dilys, the super shiny red camper van, the team will whizz around the region distributing information, chatting to the public and businesses about what to expect at the Eisteddfod, held at the old airfield in Llandow in August.

Festival chief executive, Elfed Roberts, says: "This is the first time for the National Eisteddfod to come to the Vale for 44 years, so while some people will have memories from last time, there are two generations of local people who will be finding out about the Eisteddfod for the first time this year.

"It's important for us to make sure that we promote the festival locally over the next few months, so we've hired Dilys the camper van for a few days over the next few months, to whisk us

around the Vale to meet as many people as we can.

"It's an important time for us as we launch our concerts programme on February 28 and all tickets will be on sale from March 1 onwards.

"Our latest information brochure will also be distributed across the whole of Wales from the end of the month.

"On Tuesday morning, February 28, catch us in Barry market, and then in the afternoon, we'll be out and about in Penarth. The following day, we'll be in Cowbridge in the morning and we'll then spend the afternoon in Llantwit Major, so if you're in any of those towns on Tuesday or Wednesday next week, come over and say hello.

"Thanks to everyone who got in touch inviting us to take Dilys to their town or village over the next few months.

"She'll be joining us again on April 26 when we celebrate 100 days to go, and on June 15 to celebrate 50 days to go, when we'll be visiting as many places as we can across the region. "

All slots have now been filled and details will be posted online – *www.eisteddfod.org.uk* – and this is where you'll also be able to buy tickets to the Maes and the concerts from March 1 onwards.

For more information on Dilys go to www.van-goch.co.uk.

G Y D A ' R Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yn prysur agosau, bydd criw'r Brifwyl yn teithio o amgylch y Fro ar Chwefror 28-29.

Dilys, y fan gamper sgleiniog goch, fydd yn tywys y tîm, wrth iddyn nhw deithio o le i le yn dosbarthu gwybodaeth a siarad gyda thrigolion lleol a busnesau, am beth i'w ddisgwyl yn ystod yr Eisteddfod, a gynhelir ar dir hen faes awyr Llandw ym mis Awst.

Meddai'r Prif Weithredwr, Elfed Roberts, "Dyma'r tro cyntaf i'r Eisteddfod Genedlaethol ddod i'r Fro am dros ddeugain mlynedd, felly tra bod gan nifer o bobl atgofion am ein hymweliad diwethaf, mae 'na ddwy genhedlaeth o bobl leol sy'n mynd i fod yn darganfod yr Eisteddfod am y tro cyntaf eleni.

"Mae'n bwysig ein bod ni'n sicrhau ein bod yn hyrwyddo'r w^yl yn lleol dros y misoedd nesaf, felly dyma gyrraedd gyda Dilys, sy'n ein galluogi ni i ymweld â nifer o gymunedau ar hyd a lled y dalgylch. Mae'n gyfnod pwysig i ni gan y byddwn yn lansio'r rhaglen gyngherddau ar Chwefror 28 a bydd tocynnau ar gael o Mawrth 1 ymlaen. Bydd ein llyfryn hyrwyddo diweddaraf hefyd yn cael ei ddosbarthu'n eang ar draws Cymru o ddiwedd y mis.

"Fore Mawrth Chwefror 28, dewch i'n gweld ym Marchnad y Barri, ac yna yn y prynhawn byddwn yn nhref Penarth. Y diwrnod canlynol, byddwn yn y Bontfaen yn y bore ac yna'n teithio i Lanilltud Fawr am y prynhawn, felly cofiwch alw draw i ddweud helo os y byddwch o gwmpas y lle.

"Diolch i bawb sydd wedi cysylltu i'n gwahodd ni i ddod â Dilys i'ch cymuned lleol, ac erbyn hyn mae'r daith yn llawn.

"Bydd Dilys yn dychwelyd atom ar Ebrill 26 i ddathlu 100 diwrnod i fynd ac yna ar Mehefin 15 i ddathlu 50 diwrnod i fynd, gan deithio o amgylch y Fro."

Byddwn yn cyhoeddi manylion y daith yn llawn ar ein gwefan – www.eisteddfod.org.uk – a dyma lle i fynd i brynu tocynnau Maes a thocynnau cyngherddau o Mawrth 1 ymlaen.

Am ragor o wybodaeth am Dilys ewch i www.van-goch.co.uk.

SIONED EDWARDS

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D710.

- **£2000:** 832429.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £4,500 was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 525059, 423287, 899596, 739731, 101261, 190741, 434523, 591744, 241722, 356298, 424311, 384137, 364239, 241892, 640670, 767593, 462211, 281524, 805076, 278768.
- **£5:** 355314, 436482, 105350, 307275, 312935, 225781, 298474, 125552, 210945, 679623, 511522, 890838, 795474, 562633, 607335, 394209, 543971, 182517, 583618, 588931, 269178, 299889, 467710, 933999, 354371, 422497, 471297, 445051, 730877, 131316, 148161, 858087, 571805, 181609, 638114, 420070, 825362, 128488, 802864, 270503, 108799, 288520, 599391, 892598, 804733, 208195, 710205, 769711, 291593, 299138, 542052, 898167, 738167, 685358, 155658, 466543, 873067, 976126, 583555, 186798.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2067 2062.

COFFEE MORNING

LLANTWIT MAJOR Twinning Association will be holding its annual St David's Day coffee morning in the Llantonian Hall on Saturday, March 3. Entrance is £3, including tea/coffee and cake, starting at 10am.

VALEWAYS WINTER WALKS

A WALK through Welsh history. Meet at 1.30pm in the car park, Plymouth Arms, St Fagans, on Tuesday, February 28.

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Bluebone — 2 drawer kitchen console table in distress painted finish & rustic oak top — Was £399 — NOW £149
Galaxy — 2 door, 2 drawer sideboard in satin laquer light oak — Was £445 — NOW £199
Healthbeds 'Memory Flex' — Double Vasco King Size mattress with cool max cover — Was £899 — NOW £399
Cotswold — Glazed Display Cabinet with drawer in distress finish golden oak — Was £1185 — NOW £449
Kensington — 3x2 Coffee Table with 8 drawers in warm mahogany — Was £445 — NOW £199
Chatsworth — 1.8 x 1m Dining Table with Georgian Style thick legs in solid pine — Was £699 — NOW £159
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Bridgend County Borough Council

Building Excellence Awards 2012

The Bridgend County Borough Council Building Control Team

Back row left to right:
Paul Jeremy (Building Control Surveyor), Roger Howells (Building Control Surveyor), Glyn Mitchell (Drainage Officer), Roger Jones (Building Control Surveyor), Cliff Bull (Building Control Surveyor).

Front row left to right:
Paul Joseph (Senior Building Control Surveyor), Beth Jones (Building Control Assistant),Brian Wallace (Principal Building Control Manager), Meryl Morgan (Building Control Assistant), Dave Todd-Jones (Senior Building Control Surveyor).

The categories are:

Domestic – Extension, Alteration, Loft Conversion.

Residential – Single Dwellings.

Residential – two to 10 Dwellings.

Best Community/Healthcare Building
(Public Building, Community Centres, Hospitals).

Best Education Building

Best Commercial – Small (up to £5m)

Best Commercial – Large (more than £5m)

Best Sustainable Project – Commercial.

Best Social Affordable Housing Project

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
BRIDGEND
County Borough Council

THE seventh annual Building Excellence Awards are set to be held in Bridgend on Wednesday 29 February 2012.

Organised by Bridgend County Borough Council's Building Control team, the awards are designed to showcase high-quality buildings and recognise design teams who have overcome technical issues by developing innovative and creative solutions.

Nominations for the awards are provided by the council's Building Control surveyors who are responsible for supervising the projects as they progress on site through to the completion of the building work.

With the ceremony set to take place at the Civic Offices in Angel Street, there are nine categories of award. The winners are judged on their construction and technical building qualities.

The awards will be presented by Deputy Mayor Councillor Marlene Thomas, Councillor Phillip White, Cabinet Member for Communities, Councillor Mike Gregory and Satwant Pryce, Head of Regeneration and Development.

The winners will also go forward to the Local Authority Building Control (LABC) awards for South Wales, which will be hosted by television and radio personality Jason Mohammed at the Vale of Glamorgan Golf and Spa Resort on 20 April 2012.

The winning entries from South Wales will then have an opportunity to be recognised on a national scale at the LABC National Building Awards in London this November, where they will compete against entries from the rest of the UK.

Councillor Phil White, Cabinet Member for Communities, said: "The LABC awards have become well established over the last few years and have played an important role in promoting the many Building Control services offered by the council.

"We have also created a new planning award based on the LABC categories which is intended to encourage further high-quality design work and help make more companies aware of how the council's Building Control and Planning services can offer expert help and support."

For more information, visit the planning pages at **www.bridgend.gov.uk**

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CATEGORY 1: Domestic

EXTENSION, ALTERATION, LOFT CONVERSION

PROPOSED: EXTENSION

ADDRESS: 12 REST BAY CLOSE, REST BAY, PORTHCAWL

BUILDER: SELF BUILD – MR HOCKRIDGE

ARCHITECT: STUART BENTLEY BA (Hons) Arch., B Arch. (Wales)

The design of the scheme considered the provision of a cohesive and modern solution which respects and enhances the existing building's physical constraints, while maintaining the character of surrounding properties, and combined the use of both traditional and modern materials and building methods.

Good communication between the owner, architect and the many trades involved in construction, along with close consultation with Building Control, resulted in a very pleasing transformation of the property, built to a very high standard.

Stuart Bentley
BA (Hons) Arch, BArch (Wales)
SBDC ARCHITECTURAL & DESIGN CONSULTANT

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E: stuartbentley_designs@hotmail.co.uk

CATEGORY 2: Residental

SINGLE DWELLING

PROPOSED: NEW DWELLING

ADDRESS: LAND AT NOTTAGE MEAD, PORTHCAWL

BUILDER: CB CONSTRUCTION

ARCHITECT: ALLAN D SHAW

From the design of the dwelling through to construction and completion, the owner's focus was on energy conservation and sustainability, with the intention where possible, to use recycled or reclaimed materials from local renewable sources. In addition, the building design allowed for natural ventilation, incorporated high levels of insulation and utilised waste storage and water harvesting systems, and a ground source heat pump. Good communication between the contractor, architect and Building Control throughout the construction process resulted in the delivery of a functional family home, completed to a very high standard.

CATEGORY 3: Residental

TWO TO TEN DWELLINGS

PROPOSED: 10 NO. NEW DWELLINGS
ADDRESS: AREA 5 AND 8, BROADLANDS, BRIDGEND
BUILDER: LLANMOOR DEVELOPMENTS CO. LIMITED
ARCHITECT: LLANMOOR DEVELOPMENTS CO. LIMITED

During a four-year period of the above development, the first phase has already been completed within the site.

Phase 2 is near completion and during the period there has been a good relationship which has been built up between the developers and the Building Control surveyor, with a mutual understanding between both parties, overcoming construction issues which have arisen on site, culminating in a high standard of workmanship and organisation in producing a quality product.

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CATEGORY 4: Community/Healthcare

PUBLIC BUILDING, COMMUNITY CENTRES, HOSPITALS

PROPOSED: NEW SURGERY
ADDRESS: MIN-Y-NANT, HENDRE ROAD, PENCOED
CONTRACTOR: MIDAS CONSTRUCTION
ARCHITECT: STRIDE TREGLOWN
CLIENT: ABERTAWE BRO MORGANNWG

The site was identified for a new Medical Centre close to the District Centre in Pencoed, and will replace the existing doctors' surgery that was operating out of a 'temporary accommodation' building.

Throughout the development of the scheme, the design team of Stride Treglown and the main contractor, Midas Construction, engaged with Abertawe Bro-Morgannwg NHS Trust, the end user, and the Local Building surveyor to ensure that the building is capable of catering for all the unexpected demands on a development of this type.

Dedicated accessible parking bays are situated close to the entrance and reception area, ensuring ease of access for disabled patients.

It is important to note that this scheme achieved a BREEAM rating of Very Good, with all credits for the Excellent rating under energy consumption.

In conclusion, the new surgery will maximise the service provision for the local community in a modern, sustainably designed building that is easily accessible to the general public and a credit to Midas Construction, who maintained a close working relationship with the Building Control surveyor throughout the project.

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CATEGORY 5: Best Education Building

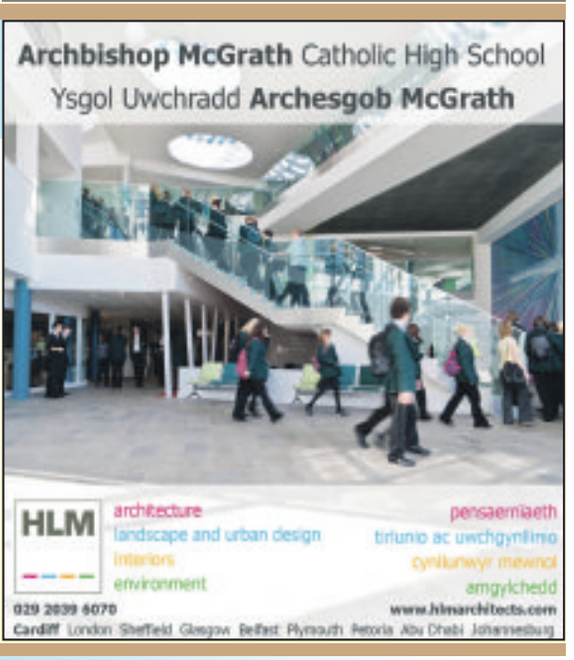
PROPOSED: NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL
ADDRESS: ARCHBISHOP MCGRATH CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, BRACKLA, BRIDGEND
CONTRACTOR: LEADBITTER GROUP
ARCHITECT: HLM ARCHITECTS
CLIENT: ARCHDIOCESE OF CARDIFF/BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

The design team of HLM Architects and Leadbitter Construction were tasked with the challenge of designing and constructing a state of the art school for the 21st Century, on behalf of the Archdiocese of Cardiff, the Welsh Assembly Government and Bridgend County Borough Council.

The site itself presented a number of challenges, not least the fact that the building is situated on a significantly steep gradient. However, the school has been cleverly designed and constructed to follow the profile of the land.

The materials used create a contemporary feel that responds to the aesthetic traditions and culture of the region, and are durable and low maintenance, ensuring the operational costs are minimised.

The overall team work approach between all parties was a major benefit to the success of the scheme, the result being the exceptional, inspiring and exciting educational establishment that is Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School.



CATEGORY 6: Best Commercial

SMALL (UP TO £5 MILLION)

LABC CYMRU

PROPOSED:
SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION UNIT
ADDRESS: COITY ROAD, BRIDGEND
CONTRACTOR: M J COSGROVE
ARCHITECT: PENTAN PARTNERSHIP
CLIENT:
UNITED WELSH HOUSING ASSOCIATION

The building was constructed to provide 6 No, self-contained flats that will provide temporary accommodation for homeless people.

The proposal also includes communal facilities such as a common room and a utility room.

The development combines stonework with coloured render masonry cills and string course detailing.

Working space was at a premium due to the size and location of the site adjacent to a busy roundabout.

The building was completed to a very high standard with excellent communication between the contractor and the Building Control surveyor.

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CATEGORY 7: Best Commercial

LARGE (OVER £5 MILLION)

PROPOSED: EXTRA CARE UNIT

ADDRESS: LLYS TON, WAUNBANT ROAD, KENFIG HILL, BRIDGEND

CONTRACTOR: COWLIN CONSTRUCTION LIMITED

ARCHITECT: PENTAN PARTNERSHIP

CLIENT: VALLEYS TO COAST HOUSING LIMITED

This new development of 39 self-contained flats has been designed and constructed to meet the Welsh Assembly Government's primary aims of extra care, which are to foster independence, enablement and choice.

Successfully handling the setting of an Extra Care Scheme into a neighbourhood of this scale set a significant design challenge.

Built to a contemporary style using materials that are in harmony with the surrounding areas, it is both functional and environmentally friendly.

The thermal performance of the building exceeds the requirements of L2A Building Regulations 2000, and incorporates renewable technologies in the form of solar PV panels, as well as a highly efficient CHP system, generating electricity while providing heat to the building.

The development achieved a BREEAM Excellent energy rating as required by the Welsh Assembly Government to publicly funded projects.

The construction process set its own challenges, not least the location which is set on a busy road in a residential development, with storage space for materials at a premium and a tower crane 'swinging' its way around the skyline.

Thanks to the determination, professionalism, and perseverance of Cowlin Construction, the Extra Care Unit has now become a 'flagship' building for Valleys to Coast Housing Limited.

Our customers, their projects and our joint experiences have shaped who we are today whether it be **care** or **extra care, student** or **key worker accommodation,** or **retirement living,** we turn concepts into living reality.

Proud winners of Bridgend County Borough Council's *Best Commercial Project* for their Extra Care Unit at Kenfig Hill, Bridgend.

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CATEGORY 8: Sustainable Project

COMMERCIAL

LABC CYMRU

PROPOSED: NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL

ADDRESS: ARCHBISHOP MCGRATH CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, BRACKLA, BRIDGEND

CONTRACTOR: LEADBITTER GROUP

ARCHITECT: HLM ARCHITECTS

CLIENT: ARCHDIOCESE OF CARDIFF/ BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

One of the key issues that were demanded of the design was sustainability.

The approach to a passive design was crucial to the success of the project, not only to reduce the carbon footprint of the school, but also to reduce the running costs, which is a key driver for the Local Authority.

Leadbitter met the environmental objectives by, crushing the rock excavated from the building's footprint and reusing it in the construction, whilst the majority of the materials used in the structural work, hard landscaping, roofing and external framework were also from recycled local sources.

The building also benefits from solar thermal heating and a solar photovoltaic power source. An intelligent building management system and SMART metering also ensures that energy is conserved from power lighting and heating throughout the school.

Additionally, rainwater is captured and used to supply the WCs in the school with a water recycling unit on each floor.

A green sedum roof on the plant room provides for water attenuation. Improved insulation values to all the building elements resulted in 20% increase to the minimum values set out in Approved Document L2a of the Building Regulations 2000.

Leadbitter completed this project incorporating and managing all these forms of technology in the construction, resulting in Archbishop McGrath High School becoming the first school building in Wales to achieve a BREEAM Excellent reading, for which they should be commended.

CATEGORY 9: Social Affordable Housing Project

PROPOSED: THERMAL UPGRADE OF 61 NO. PROPERTIES

ADDRESS: BLACKMILL, BRIDGEND

CONTRACTOR: FRANK HASLAM MILAN

ARCHITECT: MICHAEL DYSON ASSOCIATES LIMITED

CLIENT: VALLEYS TO COAST HOUSING LIMITED

The scheme incorporated the provision of an external render cladding system, and on some dwellings isolated structural repairs.

The dwellings were also provided with a combination of renewable energies in the form of solar photovoltaic panels and/or air source heat pump installations.

The site is located on an exposed hillside. The works were undertaken whilst the properties were still occupied. Access had to be maintained throughout the project with the least inconvenience to the residents.

This presented a challenge for all parties during the construction procedure and involved close liaison with all parties concerned.

The contract was however, completed with the minimum of disruption and has provided a considerable enhancement to both the community, the occupants and to the environment.

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Cardiff City dream again of Cup glory

LEIGH GRUFFYDD SANDERS previews the weekend's big football match.

THERE will be a slightly empty feeling to Cardiff city centre on Sunday as nearly 33,000 Bluebirds supporters make their fourth trip in as many years to London's Wembley Stadium, this time to watch their team take on the might of Kenny Dalglish's Liverpool, in what is probably the most hotly anticipated Cup tie for many years.

While the failed play-off final against Blackpool outmuscles this game in terms of importance, the fact that Liverpool, who hold a massive fan base of their own throughout Wales, are the opponents adds an extra bit of spice to proceedings. A lot of fans are finding themselves with split loyalties.

A 3-0 defeat away at Ipswich Town on Saturday wasn't exactly ideal preparation for such a fixture, but City fans will undoubtedly be buoyant with hope that a performance on par with the 60 minutes in which Peterborough United were annihilated at Cardiff City Stadium last Tuesday comes to the fore.

Cardiff's recently shaky defence will have to improve if they want to keep the likes of Luis Suarez quiet. They are sweating on the fitness of captain Mark Hudson, who has missed the past few games through injury, and they will be hoping he can return to continue the promising partnership he has enjoyed alongside Ben Turner since the powerful defender joined from Coventry City in August.

Kenny Miller will, injury permitting, spearhead manager Malky Mackay's favoured 4-5-1 formation and he has tasted matches of a similar ilk in his days at both Glasgow Rangers and Celtic.

But it is undoubtedly the fan's favourite and mercurial midfield man Peter Whittingham who holds most of the aces in Cardiff City's hand, and much of their hope will ride on whether he can find the space between Liverpool's star-studded midfield to use his wide range of passes.

Cowbridge under-14s dominant

COWBRIDGE under-14s travelled to Pencoed RFC with only 15 players due to holiday absences, but still managed to give a strong performance.

Cowbridge got out of the blocks quickly and a strong forward platform allowed the backs to go on the offensive. Within 10 minutes, Pete Anderson used his pace to power around the opposition backs to score the first try, which was followed by a customary run by Nathan Robson to put the score at 10-0.

The Cowbridge team were now very much in the ascendancy and capitalised again with a try by Eugene Richards, who duly converted the score, and another by Tom Lucas to make the half-time score 22-0.

The second half was more evenly matched and Cowbridge had to defend manfully to prevent Pencoed getting on the scoreboard.

The hosts lost the ball in midfield after some excellent defence from Matt Harper, Hywel Williams and Rian Thomas, and Fraser McGhan kicked ahead where Anderson just beat him to claim the touchdown.

Cowbridge again started to impose themselves, especially as the game had gone to uncontested scrummaging due to injuries in the Pencoed pack, and Tom Evans ran through the defence, only to be tackled high five metres from the line, resulting in a penalty try.

The scoring was rounded off by another try from Richards to make a final score 39-0.

A big thank you to Pencoed RFC for arranging the fixture and for their post-match hospitality.

COWBRIDGE: George Thomas, Tom Evans, Jac Davies, Fraser McGhan, Jack Anderson, Ed Couzens, Luke John, Ben Jones, Tom Lucas, Matt Harper, Hywel Williams, Rian Thomas, Nathan Robson, Eugene Richards, Pete Anderson.

GARETH DAVIES

Phoenix try hard against Caernarfon

CAERNARFON Ladies' 26-8 victory over Pencoed Phoenix did not reflect the efforts of a committed Phoenix side.

Phoenix enjoyed an abundance of possession and territorially were on top for long periods of the match. Unfortunately for Phoenix, the visitors had a potent finisher in Welsh international Manon Williams on the right wing. Williams crossed for a try hat-trick, with a 60-metre solo effort the pick of the bunch.

Phoenix opened strongly taking ruck after ruck and winning a penalty goal, successfully converted by outside half Jade Mullen.

The visitors response was immediate. The home side failed to clear their lines, the ball dropping into the hands of Caernarfon full back Dyddgu Hywel who cut through from 30 metres out to score; Sera Bailey converted.

The visitors soon increased their lead, orthodox passing from their backs putting Williams over. Bailey converted and the visitors led 14-3 after 15 minutes; this period proving to be the undoing of Phoenix.

To their credit Phoenix came back and a determined run from Ospreys squad member Natalie O'Shea triggered a period of pressure, but the home side were unable to turn it into points after enjoying the lions' share of the play for the rest of the half.

Phoenix returned to the attack at the start of the second half with back rowers O'Shea and Amy Stevens prominent.

The Phoenix pack was as strong as ever at the set piece, taking a number of tight heads before centre Nerys Lloyd almost broke clear in the visitors 22.

Hannah Seward catches Amy Stevens' pop up pass.

Phoenix hooker Lowri Reeves then put in a strong run, supported by second row Hannah Brunskill but the visitors defence held. O'Shea then put in another of her trademark runs, exploding 30 metres down the right hand touchline before being halted by a good tackle.

Against the run of play. the visitors increased their lead, the ball breaking for flyer Williams on the touchline some 60 metres out, the international beating several defenders in a blistering run for her second try, which Bailey converted.

Phoenix returned to the attack and Mullen was just held following strong carries from second row Tanya Price, but Phoenix were unable to find that elusive cutting edge. Williams then put matters beyond doubt for the visitors with her third try.

Phoenix finished the match strongly and created several try-scoring opportunities, though unfortunately they were not as clinical in their finishing as the visitors, this the essential difference between the sides.

Phoenix senior debutant, Becca Pope then showed her potential with a strong run deep into the Caernarfon 22 to set up the position for Phoenix to get the consolation try their committment throughout deserved, left wing Hannah Seward crossing to maintain her try a game record.

Phoenix skipper Marina Newth could not have asked for any more from her side against the unbeaten visitors.

The Phoenix squad are delighted with the selection of Katie Murphy, Georgina Griffiths, Becca Pope, and Robyn Wilkins for the Ospreys under-18 squad.

The fledgling Phoenix under-15 team also did well over the weekend, underlining their development under coach Paul James, by taking their opponents Gilfach Goch much closer than some weeks ago. **TR**

Rebecca Popey, who played her first senior game for the Phoenix. PHOTOS BY JULLE HANCOCK

Hannah Seward scores Phoenix's only try.

Local boy is selected for elite GB squad

ABOVE: Cameron Davies with GB coach Steve Jennings.

A BRIDGEND boy has been accepted into the national Tae Kwon Do training squad – the first step on a long road that could lead to a future Olympic Games.

Cameron Davies, a Llantwit Major Comprehensive pupil aged 14, is the only junior from Wales to be accepted. for the UK national Tae Kwon Do cadet squad.

He recently travelled to Manchester for the trials, where there was considerable competition for the places on the training squad.

His mother, Jackie, told The GEM: "I am very proud. Cameron was picked out and given special praise and feedback at the presentation at the end of the trials by the GB coach Steve Jennings.

"He also. had praise from Olympic medallist and MBE Sarah Stevenson. Now the hard work really begins.

"He will now have to travel regularly to Manchester to the academy for training, where he will be coached by the GB coaches."

Ath under-11s take on Sports

BRIDGEND Athletic under-11s played Bridgend Sports this week at home.

The Ath got the first game underway. The match started with both sides playing well and putting together some good attacking moves but both defences stood firm.

It was the Ath who eventually made the break through with a well taken try. Teo Fillis managed to drive over from a short distance to score and Connor Fabian converted to make it 7-0 to the Ath.

The Ath continued to pressure the Sports line and managed to score a second try before the break. A great run from Teo Fillis saw him smash through the visitors defence to score. Connor Fabian Converted to make it 14-0 to the Ath at half time.

The sports kicked of the second half which was very tight. Both teams were creating chances in attack but both defences stood firm. Neither team were able to score meaning the Ath ran out 14-0 winners.

Game 2 saw the Sports kick off. The Sports started the game well and quickly raced into a 21-0 lead after scoring three converted tries.

The Ath gradually got themselves back into the game and some good hands released Daffydd Beech to score a well taken try. Sam Veasey converted to make it 21-7.

The Ath continued to press and were rewarded for their efforts when Ffion Revill crashed over to score. Sam Veasey converted the try to make it 21-14.

Both teams came close to scoring before the final whistle but neither team could make it over the line. The full time score – Bridgend Ath 14 Bridgend Sports 21.

Ath Team: Thomas Anthony (captain), Jack Obbard (vice-captain), Gwilym John, Ffion Revill, Teo Fillis, Kasari Mehta, Dan O'Sullivan, Sion Vigus, Sam Veasey, Louis King, Jamie Marshall, Daffydd Beech, Thomas Reed, Sam Owen, Jack Mustoe, Connor Fabian, Taine Waite, Brandyn Fooks, William Goodhall, Megan Webb, Charles Creffield, Josh Tidy.

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Porthcawl Seconds come out on top

Sion Dunkley looks to break a tackle, with scrum half Chris Lane in support.

PORTHCAWL and Bridgend Sports met for a friendly at South Road on Saturday, with the home side running out victors by 19 points to 3.

Although a match strewn with errors, it was nonetheless an entertaining encounter and both sides tried to play running rugby in wet and difficult conditions.

The Seaweeds were first on the board when scrum half Chris Lane dived over from close in and Gareth Lloyd slotted the extras.

The Sports nabbed a penalty back to reduce the deficit before Lloyd himself nailed a further seven points with a try which he converted himself for 14-3 at the break.

Both sides continued to do their best in the second half and Sports restricted the Porthcawl backs to just one further try by wing Tom Smith, which Lloyd couldn't convert and it remained at 19-3 at the close.

We are always happy to welcome new players to our squad.

Training is Thursday 7pm. Contact us via www.porthcawlrfc.com for further details.

Nick Nutman making a tackle. (Photographs by Tracey Williams).

Kenfig Hill second XV storm to victory

Kenfig Hill Seconds on the attack.

THIS was a scintillating display of attacking rugby by a rampant Mules second team with the players showing superb individual skills.

Scorers for Kenfig Hill were: Lewis Morgan (four tries); Kyle Evans (three tries); Matthew Tossell (two tries, six conversions); Ben Clark (two tries); Lewis David; Tom Briggs; Nicky Giles (five conversions).

Man of the match went to Matthew Howe.

KENFIG HILL 2NDS	87
BRACKLA	0

Photographs by Peter Gilling.

KENFIG HILL YOUTH 11, PENCOED 21

Kenfig Hill/Cornelly Youth were knocked out of the district cup by a Pencoed side who simply played better rugby.

Scorers for Kenfig Hill were Adam Lloyd and Tom Davies (two penalties).

GO'S

CLOSE BUT NO CIGAR AS ATHLETIC DO THEMSELVES PROUD IN THE CUP

The Ath team after the game against Neath, which they narrowly lost. See the back page for the full match report. PICTURES BY KERRY FOTHERGILL

Flanker Stuart Edbrooke crosses the try line for the first score.

Comfortable success for Pencoed Seconds and the youth team

PENCOED 2nd XV started well in their encounter with Maesteg Harlequins, bringing second row Dano Howells onto the ball.

Howells drove into the visitors' 22, and good use of recycled possession saw front row forward Nicky Hawkins put right wing Liam Halse over with a well-timed pass, which the front row union would be proud of.

Good sleight of hand from home outside half Lyndon Griffiths set up a Pencoed attack and good handling saw Aaron Halse brought down five metres out. From the resulting scrummage the home pack drove the Quins back for No8 Aaron Halse to get the touchdown, Mike Rowe converted for a 12-0 home lead.

Griffiths then pinned the visitors back into their 22 from just outside his own 22 and his pack responded, once again driving the visitors off the ball for Aaron Halse to get his second try, which Rowe converted.

Pencoed were now well on top at the set piece and good possession freed full back Jamie Williams who put wing Halse in for his second try. The Halse family were dominating the scoring at this juncture and Pencoed led 24-0 at the break.

The Quins began the second half well and enjoyed their best period of the match, gaining a foothold in the home 22; however they could not penetrate a good Pencoed defence.

Midway through the half the home side increased their lead, Williams putting the ball behind the Quins defence for Ken Morris to follow up and control the ball well for the touchdown, which Griffiths converted.

Pencoed finished the match with a well-timed move in midfield, Williams cutting through to score at the posts, the conversion giving the home side a comprehensive 38-0 victory.

The Pencoed win was based on the solid front row unit of Hawkins, hooker Tom Drew, and Andrew Shillam, well supported by locks Howells and Gary Money, with the back row of skipper Justin Jones, Ryan Wallis and No8 Halse complimenting the efforts of the front five.

Behind the scrum, outside half Griffiths controlled matters well, the former Welsh youth international enjoying his rugby thirty years on from starting out at the club, with Williams also catching the eye with his incisive running from full back.

PENCOED YOUTH STUN THE YOUNG MULES

Kenfig Hill Youth 11
Pencoed Youth 21

Pencoed Youth travelled for this District Cup quarter-final as underdogs, with their hosts already through to the WRU Youth Cup quarter final.

On top territorially for long periods in the match, it was the Pencoed defensive effort, however, which was to prove the key in their 21-11 victory.

Pencoed scored two good tries, one an individual effort from Lewys Jenkins, the player gliding through from 50 metres out, with Ryan Russell also touching down, accepting a clever cross kick from Rhys Thomas, following a take against the head. Thomas added three penalties and a conversion. **TR**

Pencoed look to start an attack. PHOTOS BY JULLE HANCOCK

A Quins player finds himself held up by the Pencoed defence.

ABOVE: Jamie Williams scores.

Pyle Youth the victors in tight contest

PYLE youth visited unbeaten Ospreys Division D league leaders Bryncoch, in what was an entertaining and hard-fought friendly game, and came away with a 13-5 win.

From the off, Bryncoch tried to use their bigger forwards to punch holes through the Pyle defence but the team tackled everything that came their way.

The first opportunity to score went to Pyle midway through the first half after some excellent work in the rucks gave them possession inside the Bryncoch 22.

A well-timed run by prop Antonio Hamblin broke the defence but a last gasp tackle by the full back stopped the attack.

Bryncoch opened the scoring not long after from a scrum in the Pyle 22.

The ball was picked up by the No8 and three phases later he was on hand to squirm over the line under the posts; the conversion was successful.

Pyle then entered a period of domination and centre Kyle Clatworthy could have scored a try after chipping the ball over the Bryncoch defence.

He just needed to gather the ball but unfortunately it wouldn't bounce kindly and the opportunity went away.

Pyle were not to be denied, though, and moments later a dancing run by winger Blake Roberts saw him score in the corner.

The second half saw both defences smother all attacks, the only points coming from the boot of the Bryncoch outside half due to two occasions of indiscipline by the Pyle team. **HR**

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Porthcawl Youth earn good victory

PORTHCAWL Youth welcomed a good Nantymoel side to Rest Bay in this Ospreys league encounter.

With only a point seperating these two sides a tough game was expected.

As always at Rest Bay the elements play their part, and a strong wind was in favour of Nantymoel in the first half. Both sides started brightly, however it was the young seaweeds that looked the most threatening and played a very expansive game.

Good Nantymoel defence throughout the first half made life difficult for Porthcawl and it took some great individual skill from outside half Tom Bluck, who scored after catching his own chip through.

The young seaweeds created a number of excellent chances, however some great defence by Nantymoel kept the score to just one try.

A red card for a Nantymoel player near the end of the first half seemed to galvanise the away team. For the remainder of the first half and first ten minutes of the second, the visitors put immense pressure on the seaweeds defence and scored a well-deserved try of their own to level the match.

Having withstood the onslaught from Nantymoel the home side once again began to play expansive rugby and took the game to their opponents.

Winger Josh Williams scored in the corner from superb backs play and then captain Jack Williams scored under the posts when he charged through a number of tacklers from 10 metres out. This was converted successfully by Thomas Matthews.

There were a number of further try scoring chances that were just missed and finally centre Ollie Banner scored a well taken try to end the game with a scoreline of 22-5 in favour of the home side.

This is a very young side, with two second year youth players, 16 first year youth players and four under-16s players in the squad for the game. The coaching staff would like to thank the under-16s players who took part and made a massive contribution to the game. **PB**

Pencoed win out in clash of the titans!

PENCOED under-11s travelled to Pontypridd for a clash of the titans, the two best sides in their respective districts.

Ten minutes passed and both teams seemed evenly matched, but after some great tackling by Pencoed, notably by Sam, Mikey, Ethan and Josh, and winning the ball at the breakdown, Oliver Lewis broke free from a tackle and went over to open the scoring.

Both sides then challenged each other with ferocious tackling, and Pontypridd took the upper hand by taking most of the breakdown ball.

However they could not convert that possession because of the Pencoed rush defence that scuppered every Pontypridd passing move.

A great crash ball move took Oliver Lewis over for his second try.

With a half time score of 14-0 Pencoed looked in charge, but at the start of the second half Pontypridd settled and went over for a try of their own.

Pencoed hit back, taking the ball from Pontypridd at the breakdown. On one such occasion the ball was passed out to Dan John near the touchline, who found space from nowhere to get around the immediate defender only to outpace him with his lightening speed to run half the pitch to score Pencoed's third try, to the delight of his team and the visiting supporters.

Pencoed now were in control of the game, although everything was still tight and all to play for.

However, from a kick ahead, Pontypridd ran in a well deserved try to make a tense last few minutes.

That shock was enough for Pencoed to keep the ball for the final two minutes to run down the clock, for an excellent 21-14 away win against a previously unbeaten Pontypridd side.

A special mention goes to Ethan Davies, who proved his worth with some fantastic forward play. **CB**

Llantwit RFC's 'hard fought' win

WITH no league fixture Llantwit Major RFC tested themselves against Division 4 West Pyle - and it proved to be a hard fought contest with many plusses for coach Darren Joy to ponder on in a 17-0 victory.

Although it was agreed to go passive in the scrum from the outset, the lineout, ruck and maul were fiercely competitive, on several occasions erupting into niggly brawls. It was obvious from the beginning that despite the tacky conditions underfoot and the treacherous cross-wind Llantwit were intent on playing an open game as they ran the ball down the slope, often from deep inside their own 22.

Early on Llantwit almost scored when scrum-half Ryan Evans hoisted a high up and under down the middle of the field from a scrum near his own line, and he followed up well to get a toe to the ball with full back Josh Austin joining the footrush; wing Andy McNicoll was unable to gather an awkward bounce with the line at his mercy.

Llantwit were soon back on the attack again with some good play by centres Nathan Hoosan and Tom Silva before the pack took control, going through the phases before wing Marcus Pearce crashed through several tacklers to score down the narrow side to give Llantwit a 5-0 lead.

Whenever Pyle threatened they were met with uncompromising defence, especially home centre Nathan Hoosan, who often knocked back his burly oppsite number in some bone-crunching collisions.

Hoosan also looked good in attack with a lovely half break after a Marcus Pearce-inspired counter attack, but the last pass to full back Austin was adjudged forward and the try was not given.

Shortly after, flanker Blaine Thomas charged down a clearance and Fowler almost regathered with the line open.

All this pressure had to tell and when skipper Dan Daw carried well into the 22, he found support from No8 Rob Carter and the ever-present Blaine Thomas.

Quick ruck ball was then fed to the threes for fly half Fowler to execute a lovely miss pass across his centres which fullback Josh Austin took at pace and crossed wide out for an unconverted try, and it remained 10-0 up to half time.

Llantwit dominated the second half with substitute forwards Joe Hartley, Jamie Lewis, Geraint David, Gareth Watts and Steve Howells making a big impact off the bench.

Geraint David was unlucky to be yellow carded along with the Pyle second row after one of the several outbursts went a little bit too far for the referee's liking.

There were good touches from backs Pearce, Austin and Silva, which almost led to tries, but Llantwit had to wait until the last minute before increasing their lead.

Looking up from a scrum on halfway and seeing the Pyle fullback had drifted towards the touchline, scrumhalf Ryan Evans opted to punt ahead into the gap in midfield and flyhalf Fowler followed up well to fall on the ball and give a perfect pop up pass off the floor to supporting No8 Jamie Lewis, who drove for the line and used all his height and strength to make the line despite the efforts of three Pyle defenders.

Fowler converted with the last kick of the match.

What was particularly impressive about this win was the excellent defensive play, with centre Nathan Hoosan awarded man of the match for his impressive first time tackling which often nipped any Pyle attacks in the bud. There was also none of the indisciplined backchat to the referee that marred the previous week's performance.

It was good to see the likes of Joe Hartley, Ian Godsall, Rob Carter and Nathan Howells back on the park, while youth players Gareth Watts and Steve Howells have huge potential.

Llantwit Major - J.Austin, A.McNicoll, T.Silva, N.Hoosan, M.Pearce, C.Fowler, R.Evans, J.Walker, S.Sutton, C.Watts, D.Daw (captain), N.Howells, M.Myers, B.Thomas, R.Carter. Substitutes - J.Hartley, S.Howells, G.Watts, G.David, I.Godsall. J.Lewis. **DG**

Under-12s' in fine showing

LLANTWIT Major under-12s have only played one game since Christmas so it was good to get a game against St Joe's.

Llantwit started to build their confidence and it was down to the forwards, namely Joe Baker, turning the ball over that Ben Burrows passed to Lewis Brown, allowing Ieuan Williams to sprint from halfway.

Another phase saw Williams score in the corner, but the conversion was missed. Williams then crossed for his second try; the conversion was missed.

St Joe's crossed to score but before the break Llantwit added another try through Morgan Long and Llantwit's lead was 15-5.

Another great phase of play saw Lewis Brown step inside the full back to score under the posts; this time the conversion went over.

However, St Joe's came back at Llantwit with a second row stepping inside and outside to eventually score under the posts, which brought it back to 10 points diffence with 10 minutes to go.

Williams and Jason Grice completed the scoring to win the game for Llantwit.

Man of the match was Ieuan Williams. **MP**

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16 yard (wood only)		£160

Cash Back Prices Frozen until 1st March 2012
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Public Notices

Filco Supermarkets Limited
of **19 Boverton Road, Llantwit Major, CF61 1XZ.**

Is applying to change an existing licence as follows:
To add an operating centre to keep **6** goods vehicles and 0 trailers at
Unit 71, Vale Business Park, Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan CF71 7PF.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre, who believe their use or enjoyment of the land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hill Crest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice.

Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

Wanted

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Situations Vacant

Barry Masonic Hall Trust Company

1. Supply of Catering Services
2. Supply of Cleaning Services

Applications are invited from:
1. Qualified Caterers to supply meals at the Masonic Hall, Barry
2. Persons to provide cleaning services to the Masonic Hall.

Contracts will initially be for twelve months' duration, starting from 1st September 2012.

Applicants for each contract will be expected to view the premises and its facilities by arrangement only through Mr TG Thompson - e-mail: trevor.thompson4@ntlworld.com (01446) 408359.

Form(s) of contract are available from the undersigned to whom completed quotations must be received by 16th April 2012.

Applicants may well be interviewed.

The Trust does not bind itself to accept the lowest priced quotation.

SG Whitehorn, Company Secretary, 27 Teifi Drive, Barry CF62 7TL. E-Mail: stephen_whitehorn@sky.com Telephone 07717 897579.

FARMERS' UNION OF WALES

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER, GLAMORGAN
SWYDDOG GWEITHREDOL SIROL, MORGANNWG

We are an organisation representing farmers and growers. The successful applicant will have good organisational abilities and communication skills to develop the Union's work within Glamorgan. Starting salary: £26,609. Closing date for applications: 9 March 2012.

Further details and application forms are available from the Director of Administration, Farmers' Union of Wales, Llys Amaeth, Plas Gogerddan, Aberystwyth, SY23 3BT. Tel: (01970) 820820. E-mail: head.office@fuw.org.uk

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7 Tynewydd Rd, Barry, CF62 8HB

Anniversaries

Barri & Shirley Payne
Happy 50th Anniversary
24th February 2012
All our love, Michelle, Andrew, Beverley, Julian and all of your nine grandchildren XXX

Family Notices

MURRAY
Lynda

Peacefully on February 13 at University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff.

Lynda - well known for her time working at Morgan, Bruce & Co, devoted partner of Tony Davies.

Lynda will be greatly missed by all her loving family.

Resting at Park Independent Funeral Directors, 7 Tynewydd Road, Barry, until her service at New Jerusalem Church, Tynewydd Road on Tuesday 28th February at 1.45pm, followed by cremation at Vale of Glamorgan Memorial Park, Port Road East, Barry. Immediate family flowers only - donations in lieu may be made in the service to the British Heart Foundation in memory of Lynda. Funeral arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay J Ellis at Park Funerals 01446 421212.

RAIMENT
Frank

Andrew and Leigh Raiment are sad to announce the death of their father Frank who passed away suddenly on 9th February 2012 at the age of 89.

Frank was well known and well liked around Cowbridge having lived in the town for over 40 years. He will be sorely missed by family and friends.

The Funeral Service will take place on Friday, 24th February at the United Free Church, Westgate, Cowbridge at 2pm followed by interment at the Limes Cemetery.

O'BRIEN
Cynthia (Cindy)

On February 21st, peacefully at home, surrounded by her family at The Acorns, Aberthin.

The beloved and loving wife of Mike and devoted mother of Andrew and Daniel. Dearly loved mother-in-law of Elin, and cherished sister of Ann, Margaret, Phyllis and Edgar and sister-in-law Maureen.

The family would like to thank the district nurses, doctors and staff of Cowbridge & Vale Medical Practice and the many friends and family who enabled Cindy to spend her last days at home.

Family flowers only, donations if desired to Cancer Research.

Funeral Service on Tuesday, 28th February at Holy Cross Church Cowbridge at 1.45pm where friends please meet, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 3.15pm.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Philip Preene, Funeral Director, Pontyclun, telephone 01443 223368.

Birthdays

Happy Birthday Tim Chapman
on
28th February from all your friends at The GEM

Happy 21st Birthday
to my gorgeous fiancé
Rhian Orchard
25th February 2012
Hope you have a great day!
Love you all the world,
Jules xxx

RHIAN ORCHARD

To our special daughter
Happy 21st Birthday
on 25 February
Lots of love, Mum, Dad and all the family xxx

Double celebration...
John Davies
is **60** years young
and **RETIRING** on
Friday 24th February
Happy Retirement and Birthday wishes from your loving wife Pauline and all the family XXX

RUTH & MATTHEW
(Lloyd) (Burns)
Happy 30th Birthday

24TH FEBRUARY
To our amazing Mummy & Uncle Mashy Poo!
Lots of Love
Evan & Molly
x x x

RUTH LLOYD
Happy 30th Birthday
to a very special wife.
Love you lots,
Love Martin
x x x
24th February 2012

Welcome Home

Paul
WELCOME HOME to Brocastle from all the residents
Get well soon we are all here for you

Articles For Sale

ADVERTISE HERE £12 inc. VAT - box for 2 weeks. To take advantage of this offer simply either send in your description along with a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to 'The Glamorgan GEM' at The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or telephone us with your wording by 12 noon Tuesday. All major credit cards accepted. Tel 01446 774484. Advert must contain a residential land line telephone number. You may alter your advert as items are sold. **Sorry no refunds are given.**

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(28x47x16) **£45**
Maple with black granit inserts.
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01446 793873 8/11

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Local woman's heartbreak after the family cat dies of poisoning

A Llantwit Major family have been left heartbroken after their 10 month old cat died from poisoning.

by TIM CHAPMAN

Sandra Higgins and her family are keen animal lovers and have been left distressed by what happened to the younger of their two cats.

Sandra, who lives in St David's Avenue, told The GEM: "Squeaky was only 10 months old. We had found him abandoned in a box and adopted him.

"Last Tuesday morning (February 14) he went out as usual. When I called him back in at the end of the day, there was no sign of him. I was calling and calling.

"He appeared on the doorstep on Wednesday morning. He was lying there and couldn't walk.

"At first, I wondered whether he'd been hit by a car but there were no marks on him. He was lifeless and his eyes were yellow."

Sandra took him to the PDSA in Cardiff where Squeaky was put on drip.

"On Thursday they phoned to say his kidneys were failing and they were going to have to put him to sleep.

"I held him in my arms until he went. It was awful – all I did was cry. My grand-daughters Nina, who is 18 months, and Nikita, who is four, are devastated."

Blood tests were taken and indicate he may have ingested anti-freeze.

Sandra "The vet said he was definitely poisoned. Deep down, I think it was deliberate.

"If people want to deter cats, why can't they use harmless sprays?"

The family are now anxious about letting their other cat Billy out in case he suffers the same fate.

Squeaky having a peaceful nap. First he was abandoned; then he was adopted by the Higgins family, but at 10 months old he died after being poisoned.

Scout leader's pain for charity

TO raise money to replace equipment used by the Vale Explorer Scouts on their Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions, leader Ian Jones came up with the bright idea of having his legs waxed.

At Christmas, after talking to his milkman Peter Coombes, Ian discovered that Peter's daughter, Hannah, was in hospital during the holiday with a severe chest infection and decided that she too was a deserving cause.

Ian suggested to Peter that if he sponsored having his legs waxed, he would give half of whatever he raised to Hannah, either to buy her any equipment she needed, or just to help with a well-deserved holiday that would hopefully raise her spirits.

Ian is more used to the Three Peaks Challenge or the Sun Run at Malvern, but spread the word among the local Scout groups, and there was no way back.

Local beauty salon owner Victoria Thomas, of Sunkissed in Llantwit Major, kindly agreed to do the waxing free of charge.

So on Saturday, February 11, therapists Lori-Ann and Jo worked hard to calm a very nervous Scout leader down and then the deed was done.

The waxing was expertly carried out by Lori-Ann in about 25 minutes with Ian's wife, daughter and grandchildren giving their support.

Due to the expertise of Lori-Ann, Ian felt it was not as painful as he had expected, although he did admit that the toes and above the knee were a little sensitive!

So far more than £350 has been raised.

Anyone who would like to donate any money to these excellent causes, or find out more about Explorer Scouts in the Vale, should contact Ian Jones on 01446 794764.

JG

The finished article and relief for Ian.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
(ST ANDREWS ROAD (PART), DINAS POWYS)
(30MPH SPEED RESTRICTION AND AMENDMENT) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) and of all other enabling powers intends in not less than twenty one days from the date of this Notice to make an Order the general effect of which is as described in the Schedule below:

Full details of the proposals, to include the proposed Order and plan No T/12/3/IAJ, may be inspected at the address shown below during normal office hours and any objection you may have to this proposal must be submitted to the Head of Visible Services (Ref. IF676) in writing by 16 March 2012 and must contain the grounds upon which you object.

Persons objecting to the proposed Order are advised that in view of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 this Council is legally obliged to make any comments received in response to the proposed Order open to public inspection.

SCHEDULE

Proposed 30 miles per hour speed restriction

Make new Order

St Andrews Road, Dinas Powys

No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to travel at a speed greater than 30 mph on St Andrews Road from a point approximately 775 metres west of Highwalls Road to a point approximately 250 metres east of its junction with Argae Lane, a distance of approximately 1030 metres.

Existing 20mph Speed Restriction

Amend Existing Order

Amend:- **"The Vale of Glamorgan Council (St. Andrews Road (Part), Britway Road (Part) and Merevale, Dinas Powys) (20mph Zone) Order 2007".**

In Schedule 1

Paragraph (2)

To read:-

Britway Road (Part) and St. Andrews Road (Part), Dinas Powys - from a point approximately 40 metres west of its junction with Highwalls Road, westwards for a distance of approximately 775 metres.

Dated this 23 day of February 2012

M. Punter
Head of Visible Services
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG 2012
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SATURDAY'S TRIPLE CROWN DECIDER
GEM reporters look at the crucial areas

WHAT do Wales (and England) need to do to win on Saturday? The GEM's reporters offer their five top tips.

The week off in the Six Nations schedule gave GEM scribe Don John a chance to recharge his batteries so, to ensure his sharpness for the final three games, he has been sent for a week's intensive training in Poland.

At this very moment, he is locked in a cryotherapy chamber, ensuring that his critical faculties are in peak condition for the crucial run in.

This gives GEM reporters Philip Irwin (born in Cardiff, schooled at Bridgend Boys Grammar) and Tim Chapman (born in London, schooled at St Mary de Crypt Grammar School, Gloucester) a chance to speculate on 'the big one' – Wales v England.

We asked Philip for five things that Wales must do to ensure a victory at Twickenham, while Tim has put his mind to finding five things that England need to do to break Welsh hearts.

Their opinions were written on Monday, and therefore run the risk of being made irrelevant by any changes in personnel made by Messrs Gatland and Lancaster.

Philip Irwin.

Wales need to:

1/ Derail Charlie Hodgson's comeback.

It pains me to say this, because I always had a soft spot for Charlie. There was a time when England had a choice of a pragmatic game plan under Jonny Wilkinson, and a more varied option with Charlie at the helm.

In the end, Jonny's ability to crash tackle rampant second row forwards tipped the balance, and Charlie was sent back to Sale to rebuild his career.

There is, I think, something pretty inspiring about his ability to do so, first at Sale and now with Saracens, but it is time to put sentiment aside and launch several of Wales' big backs in his direction.

The word is that Charlie is now a better tackler. It's time for this to be tested.

2/ Be patient.

One flaw in the modern game is that a side can opt for 'safety first' rugby and can go through the phases without much risk of losing possession.

As long as no one throws a risky pass, you can keep possession for maybe 20 phases without ever gaining any actual yardage.

This was particularly true in the first half of the Scottish game. Apart from a spell when George North was injured, I doubt if Scotland made any yardage at all when they had the ball.

To be fair, in the two matches so far, Wales have not been rattled and have bided their time. It's just that we sometime get over-anxious at HQ!

3/ Keep running straight

What has been really impressive this year has been the way the two centres, Jamie Roberts and Jonathan Davies, have straightened the line whenever things were getting cramped. The days when the play drifted out towards the touchline seem to be behind us.

4/ Don't believe the hype.

We are so used to England taking the field with a big physical pack that it is easy to believe that this year's 'red rose eight' are a soft touch that would be overpowered by Cowbridge under-14s.

Hopefully, Shaun Edwards and Sam Warburton will hammer away during the week to stop any complacency building up.

5/ Back to Charlie Hodgson again. Perhaps our backs could spend some time sending their clearing kicks to touch with a slightly higher trajectory?

PS I'm going to look foolish if Stuart Lancaster picks Toby Flood!

Tim Chapman

England need to:

1/ Stop George.

George North is fast becoming the pre-eminent rugby star in the northern hemisphere – a huge physical specimen, he combines speed and power with deftness of touch. It can take up to three men to bring him down.

England's problem is that by concentrating on George, the gaps may open up for Alex Cuthbert, Jamie Roberts, Jonathan Davies, or my favourite Welsh player, will o' the wisp Leigh Halfpenny.

2/ Get their back three in the match

England have a talented back three – Foden, Ashton and Strettle. England's three-quarters have been stop-start in their first two matches with the excuse that an inexperienced side has been playing away and is anxious to chalk up vital wins.

At Twickenham there will be no excuse for not launching them. If they get decent ball, they can cause Wales problems.

3/ Get quick ball

One of biggest irritations for any rugby supporter is when their scrum half fails to get the ball out swiftly to his outside half.

Lee Dickson came on as a substitute for Ben Youngs against Italy, and the tempo of English attacks improved significantly.

Dickson seems likely to start.

4/ Get an edge in the scrum.

A scrum that's going forward gets a psychological advantage. To illustrate the importance of even a first scrum, cast your mind back to England playing for the Grand Slam last year against Ireland at Landsdowne Road.

The Irish shunted England back from that first 'hit' and set their stall out: 'This is going to be a long, hard afternoon for you.' They went on to a comprehensive victory.

5/ Hold their nerve

So many matches hang on a last minute drop goal and this is the sort of match that could deliver that sort of climax.

Even if Toby Flood doesn't start, I think he will come on so it could end up in a test of his nerve – on the other hand it could be a 'do or die' effort from Wales' Rhys Priestland!

Johnny Phillips scores the Ath's second try. PICTURES BY KERRY FOTHERGILL *(SEE MORE ON PAGE 24)*

Athletic run Neath close in a tight Cup encounter

Bridgend Athletic 14 Neath 20
SWALEC CUP ROUND 3

BRIDGEND Athletic gave Premiership side Neath the fright of their lives before going down 20-14 in this third round Swalec Cup tie.

The Athletic led until the 67th minute with two converted tries. Neath failed to cross the Athletic try line – but were awarded two penalty tries, both from five-metre scrummages.

Neath supporters conceded that the Athletic deserved to win the game, outplaying the All Blacks, with a man of the match performance from the best player on the day, young Athletic full back Johnny Phillips.

If a scoring pass from a break by Phillips in the last few minutes of the game had not been dropped, the players would have won the biggest game in the Athletic's history.

Such is the fine margin between glory and hard luck.

The Athletic took the game to their illustrious opponents from the start. The intensity of their tackling kept Neath pinned back in their own territory.

From the pressure, scrum half Aled Thomas charged down a clearance kick from Neath outside half David Langdon. He regathered, drew the full back and put the supporting flanker Stuart Edbrooke over wide out.

Outside half Steven Lewis slotted the conversion to put the Athletic 7-0 ahead.

Neath struck back with a penalty from Langdon.

On 20 minutes a long clearance kick from Neath was taken by full back Phillips 20 metres inside his own half.

He ran to half way and put in a high kick. Neath failed to deal with it and Phillips nipped in between two defenders to gather and sprint over under the posts; Lewis again converted to put the Athletic 14-3 ahead.

The rest of the half was evenly fought. The Athletic front row of Rod Apsee, Stuart Nation and Rod Jones held their own in the scrums.

Locks Jamie Doherty and Callum McCleod were effective ball carriers while the back row of Matthew Hillman, Dan Apsee and the excellent Stuart Edbrooke tackled their hearts out around the fringes to prevent Neath gaining any attacking momentum.

When Neath moved the ball out wide they found no way past the Athletic centres Stuart Morris and Mike Hathaway, and wings Jamie Olds and Lyndsey MaCausland, who were also steady under the high ball.

Young full back Johnny Phillips was the coolest head on the field, giving a master class in the art of full back play both in attack and defence.

Half back Thomas and Lewis, with well-judged kicks, kept Neath pinned back in their own territory.

This kept the Athletic with their well-deserved 14-3 half time lead.

As expected, Neath upped the pace of the game in the second half and looked to pressurise the Athletic with long kicks into their 22. From such pressure they were awarded a five-metre scrum.

The scrum went sideways and to everybody's amazement – including the All Blacks' travelling faithful – the referee awarded Neath a penalty try. Langdon converted to reduce the deficit to 14-10.

This raised the Neath game and they started moving the ball at a quicker pace – but found no way through a resolute Athletic defence.

However, in the 67th minute they forced another five-metre scrum. With the Athletic going backwards and the scrum collapsing, the referee awarded the All Blacks a second penalty try.

Langdon converted to put Neath ahead for the first time in the game at 17-14.

The Athletic introduced fresh legs with forwards Tom Penry-Ellis, Simon Mustoe, Kyle Galtry and Griff Davies joining the fray.

Also, leading try scoring centre Rhys Jones made his first appearance since a bad ankle injury in October.

With five minutes to go, Neath were awarded a penalty in front of the Athletic posts which Langdon kicked to put them 20-14 ahead.

The Athletic hit back and Phillips gathered a clearance kick and skipped through the Neath defence and drew the full back before throwing out a try scoring pass, which, had it gone to hand, would have won the game.

However, the Athletic pounded away at the Neath line and were unlucky (with two knock ons on other separate occasions) not to cross the whitewash.

The Athletic can take great heart from this performance, and the previous two games, and kick on in the league where they have four of their last five games at home, starting with Whitland visiting Newbridge Fields on March 3.

The club would like to thank club chairman Terry Coles company J.G.Plant for sponsoring the fixture.

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